DK

Fantastic Four

MARVEL

Written by
Tom DeFalco

With a foreword by Stan Lee

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE

Fantastic Four

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MARVEL
DK

NAH! BUT WE AIN'T PLAYIN' LEAP FROG-- AND I KNEW YA HADDA LAND SOME TIME!
NOW I'LL UNLOAD THAT BLASTED PIPE! I WON'T NEED IT FOR WHAT COMES NEXT--!
I KINDA HATE TO DO THIS! IN A WAY, I ALMOST ADMIRE THE GUY--!

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EVEN THOUGH I HELD BACK A LITTLE, I STILL WHUMPED 'IM HARD ENOUGH TA STOP A RHINO! WHAT IN BLAZES IS HE MADE OUTTA??
IF ONLY HE'D TALK --IF HE'D SAY SOMETHIN'! I ALMOST FORGOT WHAT WE'RE FIGHTIN' ABOUT!

"A SKRULL WALKS AMONG US!"
WRITTEN BY . . STAN LEE
DRAWN BY . . . JACK KIRBY
INKING . . . . . DICK AYERS
LETTERING . . ART SIMEK
I JUST LOVE THE EVENING TV NEWS BROADCAST...
HE'S TALKING ABOUT OUR LAST ADVENTURE!
THAT'S FOR GUYS WHO ARE TOO CHEAP TO BUY OUR MAG!
...AND THANKS TO THE FANTASTIC FOUR, THE MENACE OF DOCTOR DOOM SEEMS TO BE OVER--AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT! BUT IF EVER YOU SEE THIS MAN, YOU ARE URGED TO NOTIFY THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY!
IS HE KIDDIN'? DO THEY EXPECT DOC DOOM TO GO WALKIN' AROUND TOWN IN THAT GET-UP?!

Why the "Fantastic Four?" Let me try to explain...

It was one of the toughest decisions of my comic-book career! I can't describe the agony, the sleepless nights, the mental torture—the fear of making the wrong choice.

But finally, I could put it off no longer. Staring artist Jack Kirby squarely in the eyes, I steeled my resolve, took a deep breath and firmly announced—

"We'll feature four heroes!"

There! The die was cast. The fateful number would be four. Not two or three or five or six, but four.

And what was the deep, philosophical, carefully-thought-out reason for that momentous decision? Simple—it sounded nice with the word "Fantastic!"

After producing countless assorted monster stories with the incredibly talented "King" Kirby, I had been given a new mission by the Powers That Be in our company. I was ordered to bestow the rare gift of Super Hero sagas onto the patiently waiting hordes of comic-book fandom.

Never had two guys been so excited by a project. I had the outline for the first story written and in Jack's hands before the day had ended. As for my "Master of the Pencil" partner, he was sketching designs for the characters seconds after I excitedly read him the story I had envisioned.

Y'know, as a writer, it's an amazing experience to collaborate with an artist, especially one as brilliant as Jack Kirby. Naturally, I had a conception in my mind of what the characters would look like and how they would move and act. But nothing could have prepared me for the shock I felt when I saw Jack's initial drawings. It was as though he had some uncanny power, some indescribable ability to get inside my skull, to grab the images that were swirling around in there and then, in some magical manner, to put them down on paper as if the drawings had come right from out of my head!

But that was only Phase One.

Now that our characters had been drawn and I could clearly see what they looked like, it was up to Jack and me to bring them to life, to make them seem like real people to the readers; even more than that—to make the fans care for them. That part of the job rested heavily on my shoulders. I knew our four featured players needed mannerisms, personality traits, and speech patterns that would make them interesting.

So I decided to make Reed, the leader, a guy who's so wrapped up in science and intelligence that he tends to overexplain things and to use big words, a trait that will always get under the skin of the more earthy Ben Grimm.

Johnny was the easiest. I'd make him a typical teenager, impatient, hot-blooded and overly impetuous. He likes girls and sports cars as much, and maybe more, than fighting the bad guys.

As for Sue, I didn't want her to be the typical girl who's always in danger, always having to be rescued by the hero. I wanted her to be an integral part of the team with equal power, courage, and grit.

Ben Grimm was my favorite. Although he's the one to whom Fate had dealt the most tragic hand, I wanted him to provide humor along with pathos. How well The Thing served that purpose, only you can judge.

I think I could talk about the FF for hours, but I haven't the heart to keep you from the good stuff for another minute. So welcome aboard, O True Believer, and if you enjoy the pages that follow as much as I did, you're gonna have a ball!

Excelsior!

Stan Lee

Introduction

There are certain pivotal moments that you never forget. Some people remember the day they graduated school, started a dream job, or met that very special person. For me and a lot of people like me the first time we picked up an issue of *Fantastic Four* is such a moment. I was 11 years old and already starting to outgrow comic books. My last few purchases hadn't exactly thrilled me. The heroes seemed more interested in protecting their secret identities than in being, well, *heroic*. More out of habit than interest, I walked to my local newsstand and studied the old-fashioned spinner rack where they kept the comics. I spotted two issues of a title that I'd never spotted before—*Fantastic Four* #3 and #4. I still don't know what possessed me to pick up those comics, but I'm so glad I did. I didn't know it at the time, but I had just boarded the wildest roller coaster ride in the history of comics.

Fantastic Four #3 introduced me to Reed, Sue, Ben, and Johnny. I learned that they lived atop a skyscraper, and Sue even designed new costumes for everyone. (Ben, of course, shredded his a few pages later and never looked back.) They fought a super-powered hypnotist called the Miracle Man, who employed Godzilla-sized monsters and giant keys that transformed into automatic weapons. The team talked like real people and had plenty of attitude. So much attitude that the Human Torch quit at the end of the issue because he didn't like the way the Thing kept picking on him. He quit?!? My young mind reeled. Super Heroes didn't quit. It just wasn't done. At least not until *Fantastic Four* came along.

It seemed like *Fantastic Four* broke new ground every issue. We learned that Super Heroes faced problems finding parking spaces for their super-vehicles, and they could even go bankrupt. We met the Sub-Mariner, who fell in love with Sue, and we were shocked when she actually seemed interested. (Hey, wasn't she supposed to be in love with Reed?!) We cheered when Ben started dating Alicia and trembled when Doctor Doom unleashed his next deadly plan. We were frustrated when Reed couldn't find a way to cure the Thing, and we smiled whenever Ben met the Yancy Street Gang or mentioned Aunt Petunia.

The team took us into the past with Blackbeard the pirate, across the galaxy to Planet X, up to the Blue Area of the Moon, down into the Micro-World, and to the bottom of the deep blue sea. We battled Skrulls, diabolical duos, deadly androids, and the Incredible Hulk. We faced the menace of a world-eater and explored the anti-matter universe of the Negative Zone.

We saw the FF lose their powers and later battle for the Baxter Building. We saw the Thing crush Doom's hands and witnessed the noble sacrifice of Franklin Storm. We were present for the wedding of Sue and Reed and celebrated the birth of their son a few years later. We watched Johnny fall in love with Crystal and sympathized when Ben feared he was losing Alicia to the Silver Surfer.

If you don't know what I'm talking about, just keep turning the pages. This book will introduce you to the wonder that is *The World's Greatest Comic Magazine*! You will meet the team and learn about their powers, their friends, their enemies, their triumphs, and their tragedies. You'll get an overview of their history and of the creative people who helped produce their monthly adventures. If you're already familiar with everyone's favorite foursome, you will revisit old friends and remember times past.

I have always believed that the golden age of comics is the age you were when you first started reading. Please sit back and enjoy....

Fantastic Four Origins

FIRST FLARE

People didn't know what to make of the flare that suddenly appeared in the sky over Central City, Colorado, and feared it signaled an alien invasion!

REED RICHARDS always dreamed of exploring the stars. The son of Nathaniel and Evelyn Richards, Reed was a child genius and he excelled in science and mathematics. His father was a brilliant physicist and his mother died when he was seven years old. Already taking college-level courses by the time he was 14, Reed studied at many different colleges and universities, and gained numerous degrees. Whilst at State University, he shared a room with football star Ben Grimm. They became best friends and Reed shared his dream with Ben of building a starship someday. Ben, who wanted to become a pilot, promised to fly it. Reed never forgot Ben's offer and spent the next few years working on his designs for the ship.

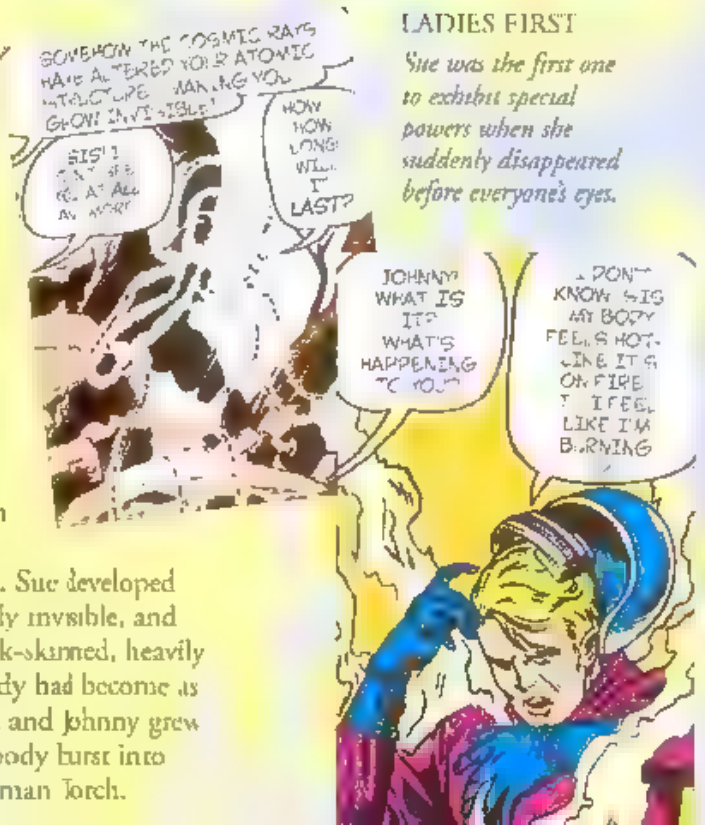
Journey into the unknown

Ben joined the United States Air Force and became a skilled test pilot and astronaut. After leaving the military, he was shocked to learn that Reed had managed to build a starship, using government funding and his own family fortune. Just prior to the project's completion, the government threatened to close it down. This infuriated Reed and motivated him to take the spaceship on an impromptu test flight. Ben objected, fearing that the ship didn't have adequate shielding to protect them from cosmic rays. However, Reed's fiancée, Susan Storm, persuaded Ben to change his mind and so Reed, Ben, Sue, and her teenage brother Johnny embarked on a journey that was to change their lives forever.

IF YOU WANT TO FLY TO THE STARS, THEN YOU PILOT THE SHIP. COUNT ME OUT!
YOU KNOW WE HAVEN'T DONE ENOUGH RESEARCH INTO THE EFFECT OF COSMIC RAYS! THEY MIGHT KILL US ALL OUT IN SPACE

More than human

During the group's voyage, a solar flare bombarded the ship with an unknown form of cosmic radiation, and they were forced to abort the mission. The ship crash-landed on Earth, and the four adventurers soon discovered that the radiation had altered their bodies and given them fantastic powers. Sue developed the ability to turn completely invisible, and Ben transformed into a thick-skinned, heavily muscled creature. Reed's body had become as stretchy as a piece of elastic, and Johnny grew hotter and hotter until his body burst into flames and he became a Human Torch.

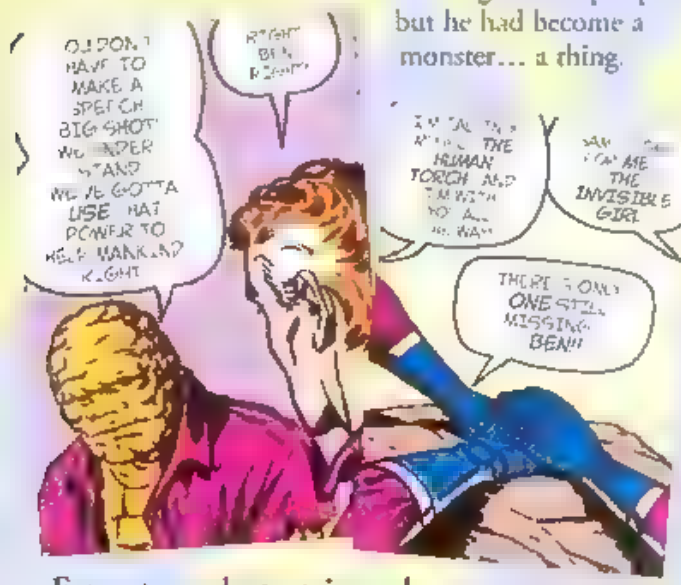

SOMEHOW THE COSMIC RAYS HAVE ALTERED YOUR ATOMIC STRUCTURE, MAKING YOU GROW INVISIBLE!
SIS! I CAN'T SEE YOU AT ALL ANYMORE!
HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?
JOHNNY, WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU?
I DON'T KNOW! MY BODY FEELS HOT-LIKE IT'S ON FIRE! I FEEL LIKE I'M BURNING

LADIES FIRST

Sue was the first one to exhibit special powers when she suddenly disappeared before everyone's eyes.

This man, this monster

Ben was furious with Reed for not listening to him about the shielding. He lost his temper and tried to flatten his former roommate! Ben was so angry that it took him a while to realize that his body was undergoing a spectacular transformation. His skin was turning orange and rocklike in appearance, and he had gained superhuman strength. Ben became depressed when he realized that, unlike his friends, he couldn't return to normal. The others had gained super-powers, but he had become a monster... a thing.


I DON'T HAVE TO MAKE A SPEECH BIG SHOT! WE UNDERSTAND WE'VE GOTTA USE THAT POWER TO HELP MANKIND RIGHT
RIGHT BEN RIGHT!
I'M SO THE HUMAN TORCH AND I'M WITH NO A... M. MAN
I AM THE INVISIBLE GIRL
THERE'S ONLY ONE STILL MISSING BEN!!

From tragedy to triumph

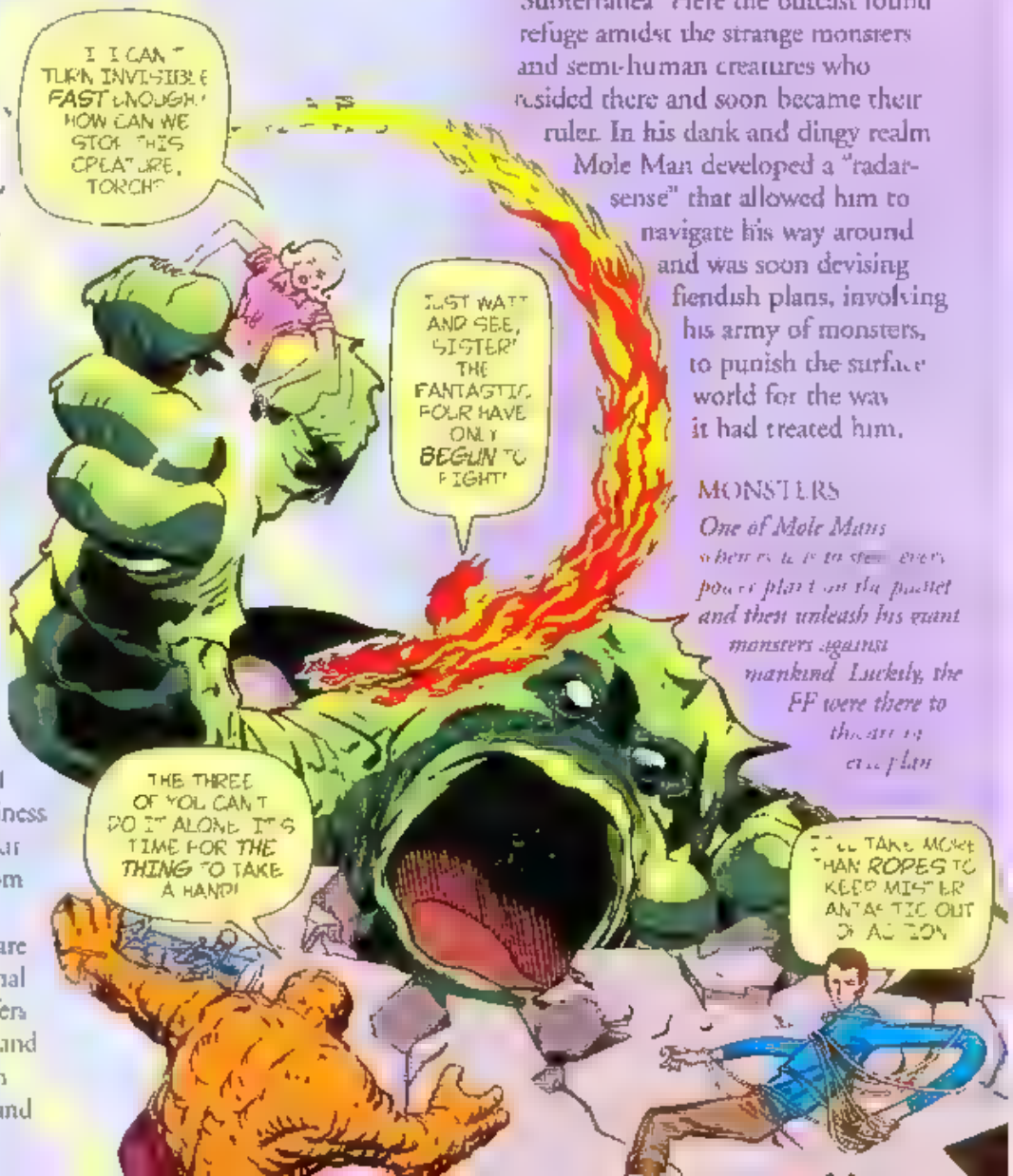
It took time for the enormity of their situation to finally hit them. Each of them now had more power than anyone had ever possessed, and they all pledged to use their abilities for the good of mankind. The four adventurers formed a legal corporation and set up offices in New York City, as if they were starting a new business together. As the Fantastic Four they safeguard the planet from extraterrestrial threats and earthly super-menaces that are too powerful for conventional peacekeepers. The team offers its services without charge and is funded by the patents on Reed's various inventions and scientific discoveries.

FANTASTIC MAN

As he tried to calm Ben down, Reed discovered that he could now stretch his limbs to astounding lengths, like a human rubber band!

Mole Man

Deep below the city streets lives the Mole Man. Almost blind since childhood and branded a misfit, Mole Man eventually rejected humanity and went in search of the center of the Earth. On an island in the Bermuda Triangle, he discovered a cavern that led him to an underground world he named Subterranea. Here the outcast found refuge amidst the strange monsters and semi-human creatures who resided there and soon became their ruler. In his dank and dingy realm Mole Man developed a "radar-sense" that allowed him to navigate his way around and was soon devising fiendish plans, involving his army of monsters, to punish the surface world for the way it had treated him.


I... I CAN'T TURN INVISIBLE FAST ENOUGH! HOW CAN WE STOP THIS CREATURE, TORCH?
JUST WAIT AND SEE, SISTER! THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAVE ONLY BEGUN TO FIGHT!
THE THREE OF YOU CAN'T DO IT ALONE. IT'S TIME FOR THE THING TO TAKE A HAND!
IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN ROPES TO KEEP MISTER FANTASTIC OUT OF ACTION

MONSTERS

One of Mole Man's schemes is to destroy every power plant on the planet and then unleash his giant monsters against mankind. Luckily, the FF were there to thwart my evil plan.

Mr. Fantastic Reed Richards

Reed Richards was a child prodigy who grew up to become a scientific and mathematical mastermind with a genius for technological invention. Charismatic and a born leader—almost no problem is too tough for Reed to solve. And he knows it, adopting the alias Mr. Fantastic as his *nom de guerre* in the Fantastic Four, the Super Hero group he proudly leads against the forces of evil. Mr. Fantastic's mental abilities are amazing enough, yet they pale in comparison with his physical powers. Exposure to a massive dose of radiation during the trial run of his starship dramatically altered his molecular structure. His strength remained that of a normal man, but his body became endowed with incredible elasticity and malleability.

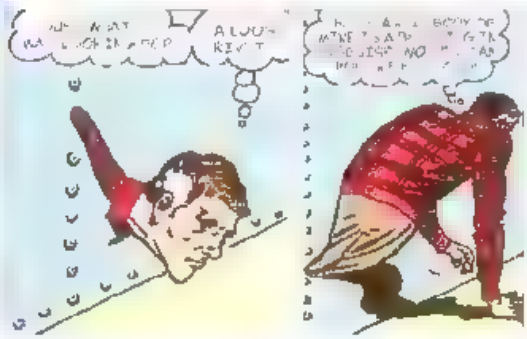
Elastic fantastic

Reed soon came to realize that he could will his body to take on any shape his imagination conceived—bending it, condensing it, expanding it, or stretching it. Mr. Fantastic has now achieved total mastery over his physical powers: in a matter of seconds, he can compress his body into any solid shape of a volume no greater than 1.7 cubic feet or spread his body out in different directions turning it into a living canopy, a parachute, or a thin-walled enclosure. He can flatten his body until it is no wider than a sheet of paper or extend his neck, torso, and limbs 1,500 feet without discomfort. His body's internal organs and respiration and circulatory systems remain totally unaffected by his changes in shape. However, the greater the distance he stretches himself, the weaker he becomes. Just as he can alter his shape in seconds, so he can revert to his normal human form in mere moments.

Made of pliable molecules, Reed's suit miraculously expands and contracts as his body changes shape

Escape route

Reed can narrow himself to pass through the eye of a needle measuring 0.045 x 0.06 inches, so the tiny hole created by a loose rivet is more than wide enough for him to squeeze through.



SUSAN STORM

Reed first met his future wife, Susan Storm (Invisible Woman), when he was a young student at Columbia University. She was his landlady's 12-year-old niece!

Spring loaded

Mr. Fantastic coiled his body into a human spring to propel the Thing in pursuit of the Frightful Four. The Thing hurtled into the air and crashed onto the villains' spaceship. Soon it was "clobberin' time" for the Fantastic Four's evil rivals!

Underwater camouflage

On the trail of the evil Attuma and his undersea army, the Fantastic Four had to pass by an enemy patrol unnoticed. When all hope seemed lost, Mr. Fantastic changed his body into the form of a giant ray and transported his teammates safely past the enemy patrol. Just as the weight of carrying the others was beginning to prove too much for the Fantastic Four's leader to bear, the Thing bailed out and singlehandedly captured one of Attuma's deep-sea tanks.

THE ELASTICITY OF MY BODY WILL ENABLE ME TO ABSORB THE SHELLS' AND THEN
BULLETPROOF
Reed's super-pliable body can absorb the energy of projectiles and explosives with deadly force
I CAN'T KEEP IT UP MUCH LONGER
ON A DIET!

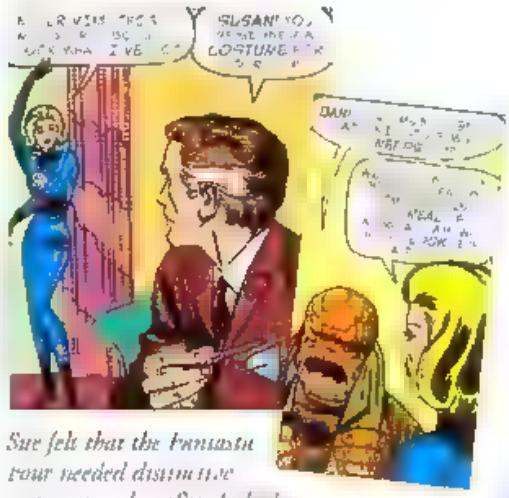
Knockout punch

A lack of super-strength proves no barrier to Mr. Fantastic's effectiveness as a hand-to-hand combatant. His scientific expertise enables him to supplement his amazing reach, speed, and flexibility with awesome hitting power. Fitted with concussive knuckle dusters, Mr. Fantastic's two fists pack a pile-driving punch—enough to put a dent in Annihilus's armored jaw and knock the insectoid senseless!

Invisible Woman

Susan Storm Richards

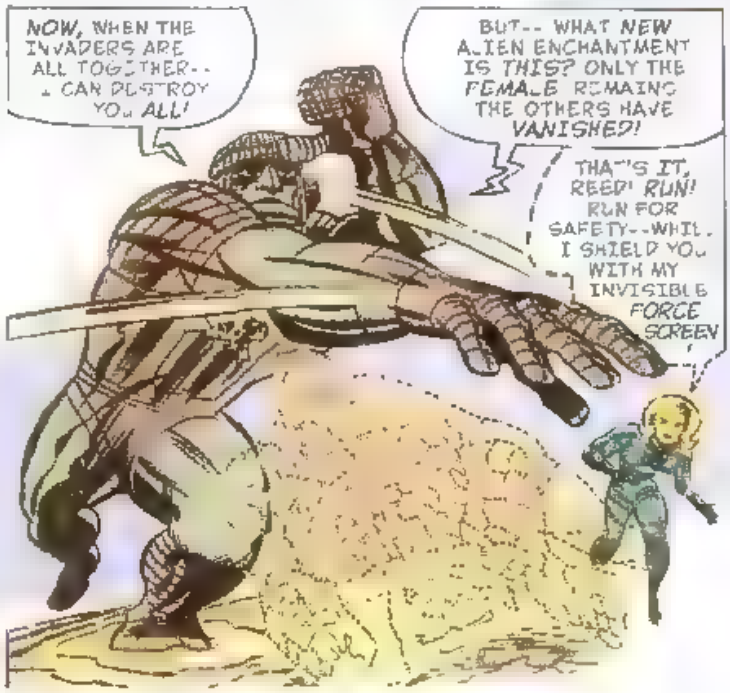
Without Sue Richards, there would probably be no Fantastic Four! Time after time, she has acted as the group's peacemaker when the other members have fallen out. When Reed loses patience with Johnny, or when the Thing's resentment against Reed for not curing him boils over, Sue is always there with consoling words. Sue and her younger brother Johnny were brought up in a comfortable, loving home in Long Island until tragedy struck when their mother died in a car crash and their father was sent to prison. At age 12, while staying at her aunt's rooming house in Manhattan, Sue met Reed Richards and developed a crush on him. However, the foundations had been laid for a lasting friendship that would one day become love and marriage.



Sue felt that the fantastic four needed distinctive costumes and outfitted all the members—except the Thing, who refused to wear a "fool outfit."

Love and invisibility

Years later, Sue moved to California, dreaming of Hollywood stardom. She met up once more with Reed Richards, who had become an aeronautical engineer, and the two fell in love. When she found out that Reed was about to launch a starship with Ben Grimm as pilot, she insisted that she and Johnny should also be among the crew. Caught in a radiation storm along with the others, she discovered that she could turn invisible at will and became a member of the Fantastic Four.


NOW, WHEN THE INVADERS ARE ALL TOGETHER-- I CAN DESTROY YOU ALL!
BUT-- WHAT NEW ALIEN ENCHANTMENT IS THIS? ONLY THE FEMALE REMAINS THE OTHERS HAVE VANISHED!
THAT'S IT, REED! RUN! RUN FOR SAFETY--WHILE I SHIELD YOU WITH MY INVISIBLE FORCE SCREEN

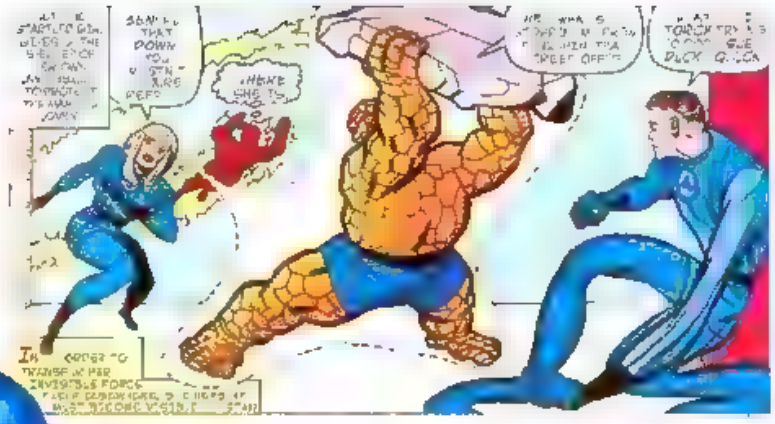
Powers of projection

First taking the alias Invisible Girl and later changing it to Invisible Woman, Sue soon realized that the mutagenic changes the radiation had caused went much further than simply an ability to disappear in a crisis. She discovered that she could make others invisible as well and also that she possessed the ability to manipulate cosmic energy with her mind. Among other things, this power enabled her to create invisible fields that could withstand considerable amounts of force. One of the most spectacular early demonstrations of Invisible Woman's psionic skills occurred when Mr. Fantastic and the Thing lay at the mercy of the Sentry. Before the merciless automaton could deliver a death-dealing blow, quick-thinking Sue concealed her partners from sight and shielded them with a force field

BRING HER TO MY THRONE ROOM!
CAREFUL, YOU DOLTS! NO HARM MUST COME TO HER.
OHH, I FORGOT! MY INVISIBILITY IS WASTED ON THEM. THEY'RE VIRTUALLY SIGHTLESS. THE PEPPO- RON AND TASTINGS

INVISIBILITY

Sue's amazing powers of invisibility could not preserve her from the clutches of the Mole Man's minions, who were all virtually blind

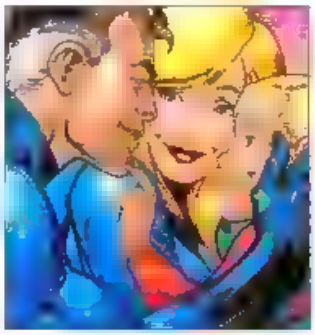

SMASH THAT DOWN YOU GIT-N- URE PEEP!
HERE SHE TO- MES!
HE WHA- TORCH TRY TO STOP SUE DUCK Q- ICK
IN ORDER TO TRANSFER HER INVISIBLE FORCE

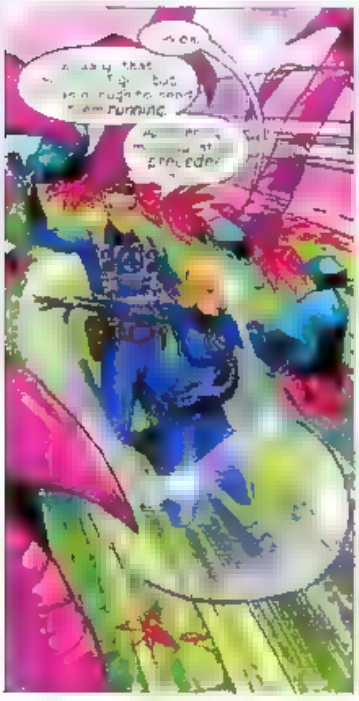
Keeping the peace

Sue is quick to intervene when the team starts squabbling, surrounding the Thing with an invisible force field strong enough to stop his violent attacks. Sue also possesses the power to make other beings or things invisible, and she can appear to fly by projecting columns of psionic force to keep her airborne.

A fantastic family

Sue married her sweetheart Reed Richards in a ceremony attended by many heroes. The birth of a son, Franklin, named after Sue's late father, brought the couple ever closer together. Sue and Reed later had a daughter. Doctor Doom helped at the birth—as long as the baby was called Valeria after his first and only love.



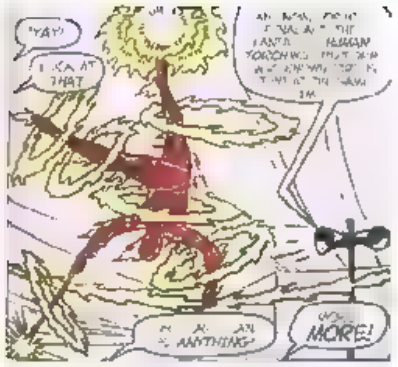


SOLID SHAPES

One of Invisible Woman's most useful psionic powers is her ability to create simple solid shapes in moments. As if by magic, she creates a see-through bobsleigh so that she and Reed can speed down a hill and make it back to their interdimensional portal.

Weapons of the mind

She may not be any stronger than a normal, physically fit woman, but Sue can be a formidable adversary when her anger is roused. She certainly got her message across to Doctor Doom when he snatched her son, Franklin. She created a stream of invisible flying grappling hooks with her mind that attacked the villain's brain.



Human Torch

Johnny Storm

HOT-HEADED and filled with boundless energy, Jonathan "Johnny" Storm adds youthful enthusiasm and rebel cool to the Fantastic Four—in addition to a range of incredible, fiery super-powers. He is Sue Storm's younger brother and was only nine when their mother was killed and he had to endure the pain of losing a parent. Johnny became obsessed with motor vehicles and, by the age of 16, was a master mechanic and a daredevil hot-rodder. He accompanied his sister on the fateful first voyage of Reed Richards' starship. When it was hit by a freak radiation storm, every molecule in his body was spectacularly altered.

Fire and passion

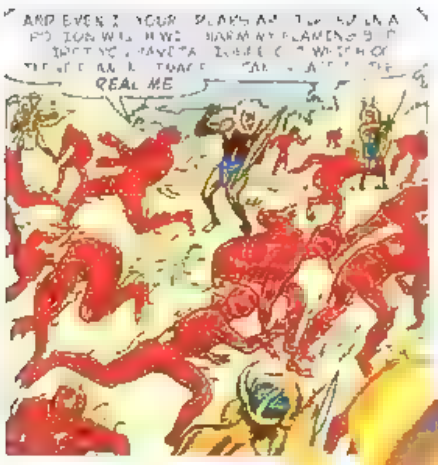
Back on Earth, Johnny found that he could generate fiery plasma from his body. Taking the name the Human Torch, he joined Reed Richards' team of champions, the Fantastic Four. His attempts to lead a normal life, finishing high school and blending in with the community, proved hopeless, and he and Sue, the Invisible Woman, were soon ensconced in the team's headquarters in New York's Baxter Building. Johnny married Alicia Masters, whom the Thing also loved, causing a bitter rift within the team for a while until they discovered that Alicia was actually a shape-changing Skrull spy. The real Alicia had been spirited away to the Skrull's homeworld and was duly rescued by the team. Alicia still loved the Thing, and Johnny embarked on a series of affairs of the heart.

CIRCUS TRICK

Johnny Storm is a natural show-off and loves soaking up the applause Generating and juggling fireballs, while creating flaming rings and balancing on one arm on a high wire, is nothing to him! He is even able to fly on a cloud of hydrogen emitted by his plasma fire (below)

CANDLE POWER

The Human Torch and the Thing have a very competitive relationship the Thing is jealous of Johnny's good looks and cleverness and pours scorn on his flashy style. However, even the super-strong Thing has to admit that the Human Torch's explosive "candle punch" is hot stuff!

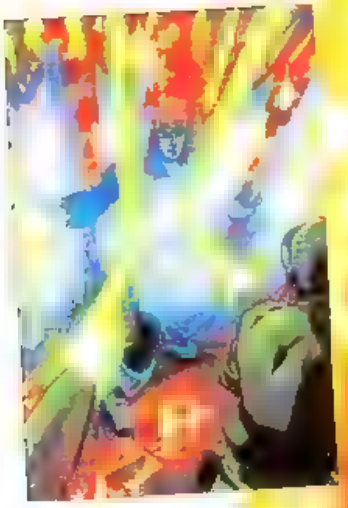


Flame on!

The Human Torch lacks superhuman strength. However, one of Johnny's many amazing abilities is to create flaming duplicates of himself that turn him into a one-man army!

In control

Johnny can generate fiery plasma of about 780 degrees Fahrenheit from all or part of his body at will, without harm to himself or his clothes (which are composed of unstable molecules). He can maintain this heat intensity for up to 16 hours. For short periods, he can increase the heat he emits to what he terms "nova flame" levels. He can also release all his body's energy in a devastating "nova-burst" explosion.



The Human Torch can absorb vast amounts of heat energy into his body without coming to any harm—as these soldiers from the Brüm Nebula rapidly realized

Flames extend up to 5 inches from Johnny's body.

PUTTING OUT THE TORCH

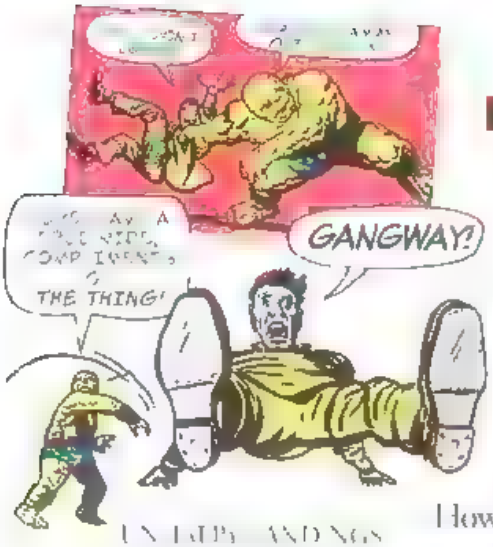
To produce fire, the Torch needs oxygen and so can be extinguished in low air-pressure or a vacuum. Johnny's flames can also be briefly doused by large amounts of water or smothered by fire-fighting materials such as sand, foam, and fire-resistant chemicals.

Fearsome fire

The Human Torch's powers are immense and extremely dangerous in the wrong hands, as the Fantastic Four discovered when Johnny's body was temporarily taken over by Doctor Doom's spirit. The evil sorcerer had complete control of Johnny's mighty arsenal of fire-formed weapons and directed each attack with deadly accuracy.

The Thing

Benjamin Jacob Grimm

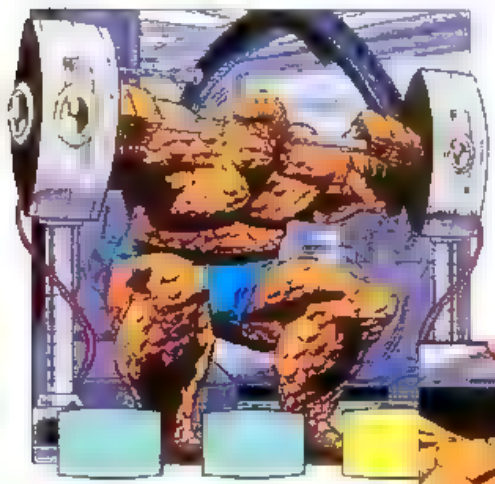


FATE GAVE Ben the name Grimm, and grim has often been his fate! He was born and raised on Yancy Street in Manhattan's tough, poverty-stricken Lower East Side. His father was an alcoholic, and his older brother Daniel was killed in a street fight. At age 18, Ben succeeded Daniel as leader of the Yancy Street Gang and seemed locked into a world of petty crime. However, Ben's life turned around when his parents died and he was adopted by his Uncle Jake, a doctor. After initial opposition, Ben responded positively to his uncle's care. He left the gang and completed high school. His impressive physique made him a star of the football team, and he later won a football scholarship to Empire State University.

UNHAPPY AND NOT *[illegible] was Grimm's [illegible] and the streets were his world. He was rough, mean and [illegible] but even he knew that [illegible] was never too rough.*

Monstrous mutation

At university, Ben's roommate was Reed Richards. The rough no-nonsense Ben Grimm and the brilliant, wealthy science student Reed Richards became firm friends. Years later, Reed asked Ben, by now an experienced test pilot and astronaut, to join the crew of his prototype starship. Ben pointed out that the ship's radiation shield might not be powerful enough, but Reed was determined to test his starship anyway. Caught in a powerful radiation storm in space, pilot Grimm was forced to abort the flight and return to Earth. As with the other crew members, the radiation blast had extraordinary effects on Ben's molecular structure. His skin mutated into thick heavy, orange scales; his musculature increased immensely; he became superhumanly strong and powerful. At first, Ben could sometimes change back to his original form, but all too soon, he would revert to the monstrous body of The Thing.



Keeping fit

Reed Richards has devised a state-of-the-art gym in the Fantastic Four's base in New York's Baxter Building. The gym's high-tech weight machines help to ensure that Ben keeps his massive muscles toned.

Alicia and the Thing

Sculptress Alicia Masters's fondness for Ben's blind side and sculptures of his grotesque appearance. Ben assumes Alicia and Johnny Storm Broken-hearted and wracked with guilt Ben left the Fantastic Four to esp But also worries about Alicia's close friendship with Sharon Ste

Trapped in a monster's body

From time to time either by accident or th scientific experiments of Reed & Sue Ben has returned to normal. However, the effects are short-lived, and his powers quickly return to transform his body sweeps and he is left to revert to the form of rock. Although his mind is still impenetrable, Ben is still susceptible to illness and stress. His emotional level and basic personality are unaffected by his transformation into the Thing. When acting up the bad guys as he often calls them, he is a blunt, cigar-chomping, tough guy.

Fantastic Family

IF THERE is a single trait that distinguishes the Fantastic Four from all the other teams of super-powered adventurers, it is the fact that the FF is also a family. Reed, Ben, Sue, and Johnny were bound together long before they entered the starship and gained their superhuman powers. Reed met Ben in college, and they became lifelong friends. Sue fell in love with Reed while he was still attending Columbia University. Johnny always knew his sister's fiancé was destined for greatness and went along for the ride. The FF also have an extended family tree....

Reed and Sue were finally married in a public ceremony, attended by the Avengers and the X-Men. Stan Lee and Jack Kirby tried to crash the party but were ejected.

MARRIED
CHILDREN

Nathanial Richards

Evelyn Richards
A former teacher, Evelyn gave up her career when she married Nathanial. She died after a long illness when Reed

Franklin Storm
A world renowned surgeon, Franklin turned to gambling after he failed to save his wife's life. Unable to pay his debts, he fought with a loan shark and was convicted of his manslaughter. In prison, Franklin was kidnapped by Skrulls and sacrificed himself to save Sue and Johnny.

Mary Storm
Mary Storm was fatally injured in a car accident on the way to a dinner in honor of her husband. Not only was Franklin driving the car, but he operated on Mary in a desperate attempt to save her life. After the death of her mother and the imprisonment of her father, Susan took charge of raising her younger brother, Johnny.

Huntara
Half-sister of Reed from an alternate Earth, Huntara is Guardian of the Sacred Timestreams.

Reed Richards
A former child prodigy, Reed is the outer-most mocking member of the F

Susan Storm
Susan first fell in love with Reed when he was a student

Johnny Storm
"Hothead" Johnny loves fast cars and beautiful women.

Lyja (Skrull)
A disgraced Skrull, Lyja pretended to be Alicia Masters and married Johnny.

Kristoff Vernard

Valeria Richards
The second child of Reed and Sue. Val is named in honor of

Franklin Richards

Rachael Summers, Phoenix

Torus Storm

Rama-Tut

Kang

Immortus

Scarlet Centurion

ALTERNATE TIMELINE

Hyperstorm

HYPERSTORM

In one possible future Hyperstorm is the only child of Franklin and Rachael Summers. After inheriting the telepathic and telekinetic powers of his father and the virtually limitless power of his mother, he discovers the entire known universe and becomes the great enemy the Nathanial Richards has sworn to destroy.

The Thing's closest relatives:

Aunt Petunia
A student nurse, Aunt

Uncle Jake
A successful physician,

Benjamin Jacob Grimm

Ben's twins
Jacob and Alice

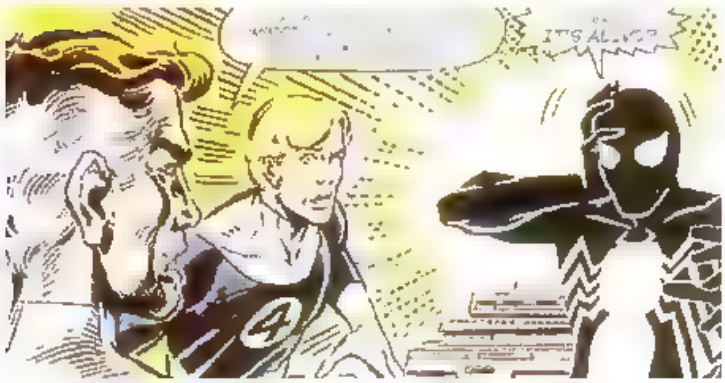
TWINS

Fantastic Friends

BEING PART of a Super Hero team, battling evil and dazzling the world with your powers sounds great, but it has a downside; you will be hounded by the paparazzi and attract the envy, even the fear, of sections of the public. Living outside normal society, the Fantastic Four have learned to rely on a small circle of friends. Some of these allies are ordinary folk, others heroes in their own right — but all are highly valued by the FF.

Spider Man

One of the most famous of the Fantastic Four's friends is the amazing web-slinging, wall-climbing Spider-Man. He is Johnny's best friend and has often been called upon to use his superhuman strength and agility—and, of course, his spider-sense—to come to the aid of the FF.



Saving Spidey

Spider Man has cause to be grateful to his friends. Spidey tore his costume to shreds during a battle with the terrible Beyonder and found a strange, alien machine that supplied him with a new, black one. Reed Richards soon realized that the black costume was in fact turning Spider Man into its puppet!

Agatha Harkness

Once the leader of the witch colony of Salem's Seven, Agatha became close friends with Reed Richards, protecting his children from the Mad Thinker's Awesome Android. She fell ill when her son Nicholas Scratch and was cured by the Fantastic Four's own medical team. Salem's Seven. But dared to consort with the outside world.

A heroic occasion

The Fantastic Four remain close friends with the Avengers and the X-Men. Both Super Hero teams were guests at Reed Richards and Sue Storm's engagement party.

ALYSSA MOY

Before Reed Richards fell in love with Sue Storm, Alyssa Moy was a close companion. They first met in college, though whether they have any romantic involvement is not known. She is highly intelligent and resourceful, a born explorer and adventurer.

Alicia Masters

Blindness only intensified Alicia's compassion for others and her own artistic gifts—her sculptures have brought her worldwide fame. She fell in love with the Thing, being able to "see" the kind heart that lay beneath his rough exterior. She also had a close relationship with the Silver Surfer.

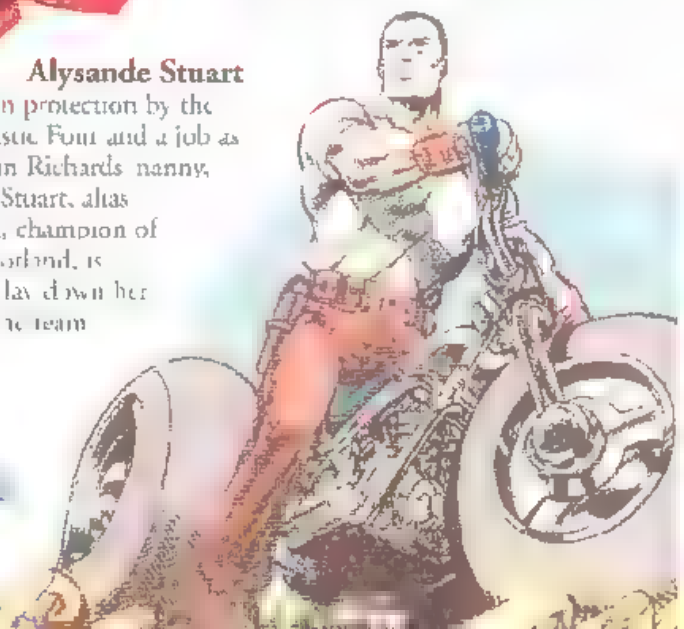
Wingfoot

The son of decathlon champion Will Wingfoot, Native American Wyatt Wingfoot became friends with Johnny Storm at Metro College, New York City. His tracking skills, bravery, athleticism, and ability with animals have proved useful on several FF adventures.

Alysande Stuart

Given protection by the Fantastic Four and a job as Franklin Richards' nanny, Alysande Stuart, alias Caledonia, champion of ancient Scotland, is willing to lay down her life for the team.

The brutal predator Spider-Woman met its [illegible] when it [illegible] the Fantastic Four. When the FF's paintain [illegible] Spider-Woman [illegible] Thing [illegible] foreign power, she [illegible] to protect



Fill-in FFers

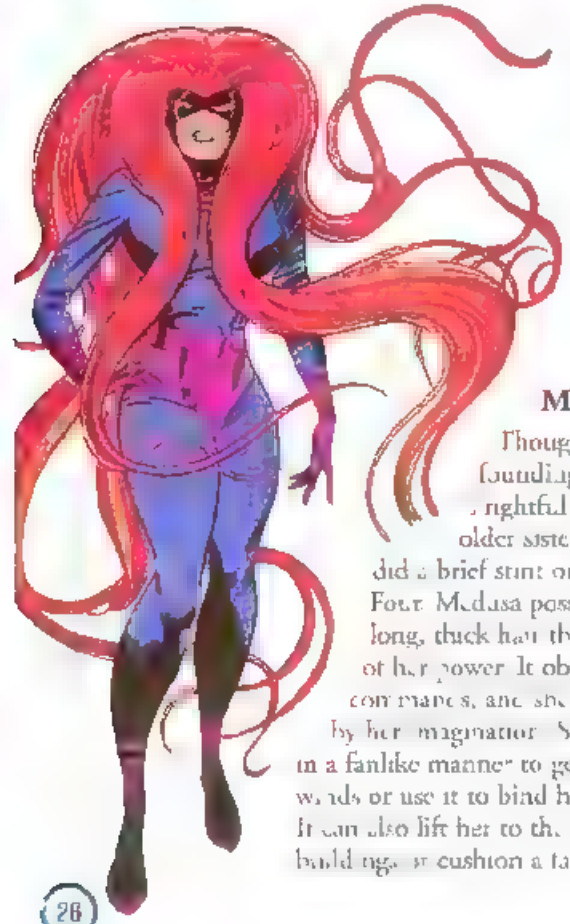
MEMBERSHIP of other super groups, such as the Avengers and the X-Men, is constantly changing, but the Fantastic Four still has its original teammates. Individual members may have taken the occasional leave of absence over the years, or even quit for periods of time, but they always returned. However, when a temporary vacancy does arise in the Fantastic Four, there is always someone ready to take the job.

Crystal, the exquisite elemental

Crystal has twice served as a substitute member of the Fantastic Four. She is an Inhuman who has the ability to psionically manipulate earth, wind, water, and fire. She can create seismic tremors, control the flow of water, ignite fires, and generate winds

CRYSTAL'S POWERS

Crystal can direct just one elemental force at a time, and she can only use her powers for about an hour before she needs to rest



MAGNIFICENT MANE

Medusa's hair is super-strong and can lift nearly two tons. She can also employ it to do complex tasks like shooting cords or picking locks

Medusa

Though she was a founding member of the Inhumans, Crystal's older sister, Medusa, also did a brief stint on the Fantastic Four. Medusa possesses a head of long, thick hair that's the source of her power. It obeys her mental commands, and she is only limited by her imagination. She can rotate it in a fanlike manner to generate fierce winds or use it to bind her enemies. It can also lift her to the top of tall buildings or cushion a fall

IN THE FAMILY

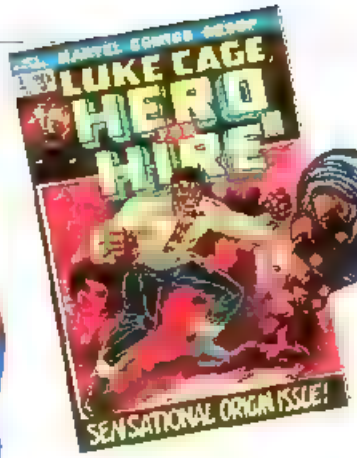
A blood transfusion from her cousin, Dr. Robert Bruce Banner (who is secretly the Incredible Hulk) gave Jennifer Walters the ability to transform into the She-Hulk

Sensational She-Hulk

While the Hulk and Banner usually have cast her personality, the She Hulk has been Jennifer Walters mind and personality. She isn't quite as strong as her cousin but can still lift 25 tons without too much effort. While working with the FF, Jennifer met and started dating Wyatt Wingfoot

The astonishing Ant-Man

Scott Lang was an electronics expert who briefly turned to crime and broke into the home of Dr. Henry Pym, the original Ant-Man. Scott stole Pym's Ant-Man costume and shrinking canisters and used them to rescue a kidnapped doctor. When he later tried to return the stolen items, Pym offered to let Scott become the new Ant-Man. Aside from his scientific expertise, the Ant-Man can also shrink to the size of an ant while retaining his normal human strength.



Power Man

When the team needed someone to fill in for the Thing, Reed Richards hired Luke Cage. While not as strong as Ben Grimm, Power Man does possess super strength and steel-hard skin. Bullets bounce off him, and his fists can shatter a concrete wall. He is also a self-taught street fighter and a superb athlete. While working with the FF, Power Man fell under the Puppet Master's spell and turned against the team.

Ms. Marvel is a master of martial arts, including Tae Kwon Do.

She-Thing

While on a mission to space, Sharon Ventura was accidentally exposed to cosmic rays and mutated into a female version of the Thing. She now possessed super-strength and was powerful enough to hold her own against the Skrull Queen.

Ms. Marvel

Sharon Ventura was the only child of an army officer who wanted a son. Trying to live up to her father's expectations, she studied martial arts and became a gifted athlete. She also mastered mountain climbing, skydiving, ski-jumping, and scuba diving. Sharon first met the Thing while he was on vacation from the FF, working as a professional wrestler. She eventually underwent a process that artificially enhanced her strength, speed, and endurance. Sharon designed a costume and began to call herself Ms. Marvel. After she helped the Fantastic Four defeat Diablo, Ben invited her to join the team.

Headquarters & Hardware

THE FOUNDING members of the Fantastic Four are the owners of a private corporation that specializes in scientific research. Fantastic Four, Inc. is financed by the profits from the patents on those inventions that Reed Richards chooses to share with the public. Many of his developments—like the unstable molecules used in their jumpsuits—are designed to help the team protect the Earth.

Security first

The team's first base of operations was in the top five floors of the original Baxter Building in midtown Manhattan. Reed outfitted the roof with security monitors that showed the roof and recorded anything that approached it. A computerized security system guarded the interior, using retina scans to identify anyone who entered the building. A team of robots would automatically be activated to subdue intruders.

ROBOT A

[redacted]

Changing headquarters

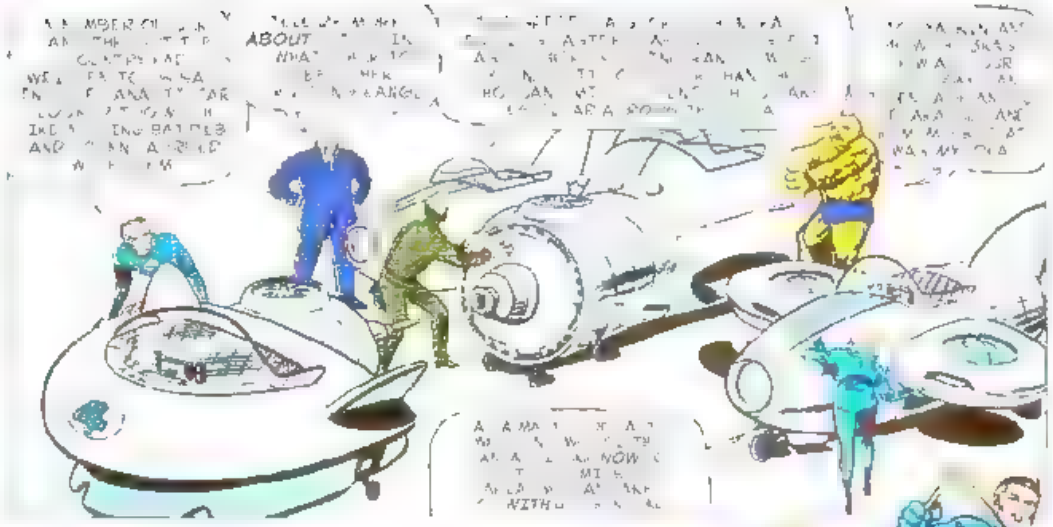
The original Baxter Building was ripped from its foundations and hurled into space, where it was destroyed by Kristoff Vernard. While staying at Avengers Mansion, the FF constructed a new headquarters on the original site. Four Freedoms Plaza was a 45-story office building that contained four more stories for their headquarters. When another team commandeered the building, the FF briefly moved into their warehouse storage facility at Pier 4. Four Freedoms Plaza was destroyed, and a new version of the Baxter Building now stands in its place.

CONSTRUCTION

[redacted]

Flying Bathtub

Reed designed the first Fantasti-car because he wanted a vehicle that could travel around Manhattan and would be easy to park. Powered by an experimental atomic engine, it was essentially a flying electric golf cart with an electronic motor. It could reach top speeds of nearly 90 mph



Fantasti-crafts

As the team expanded its operations, Reed realized it needed a vehicle with much greater speed and cruising range. Working with Johnny Storm, he built an improved Fantasti-car that was equipped with bulletproof windshields that roll into place at the flick of a switch for quick jaunts. The team also has an airjet cycle that is propelled by compressed cushions of air. Ben even has an individual jet cycle

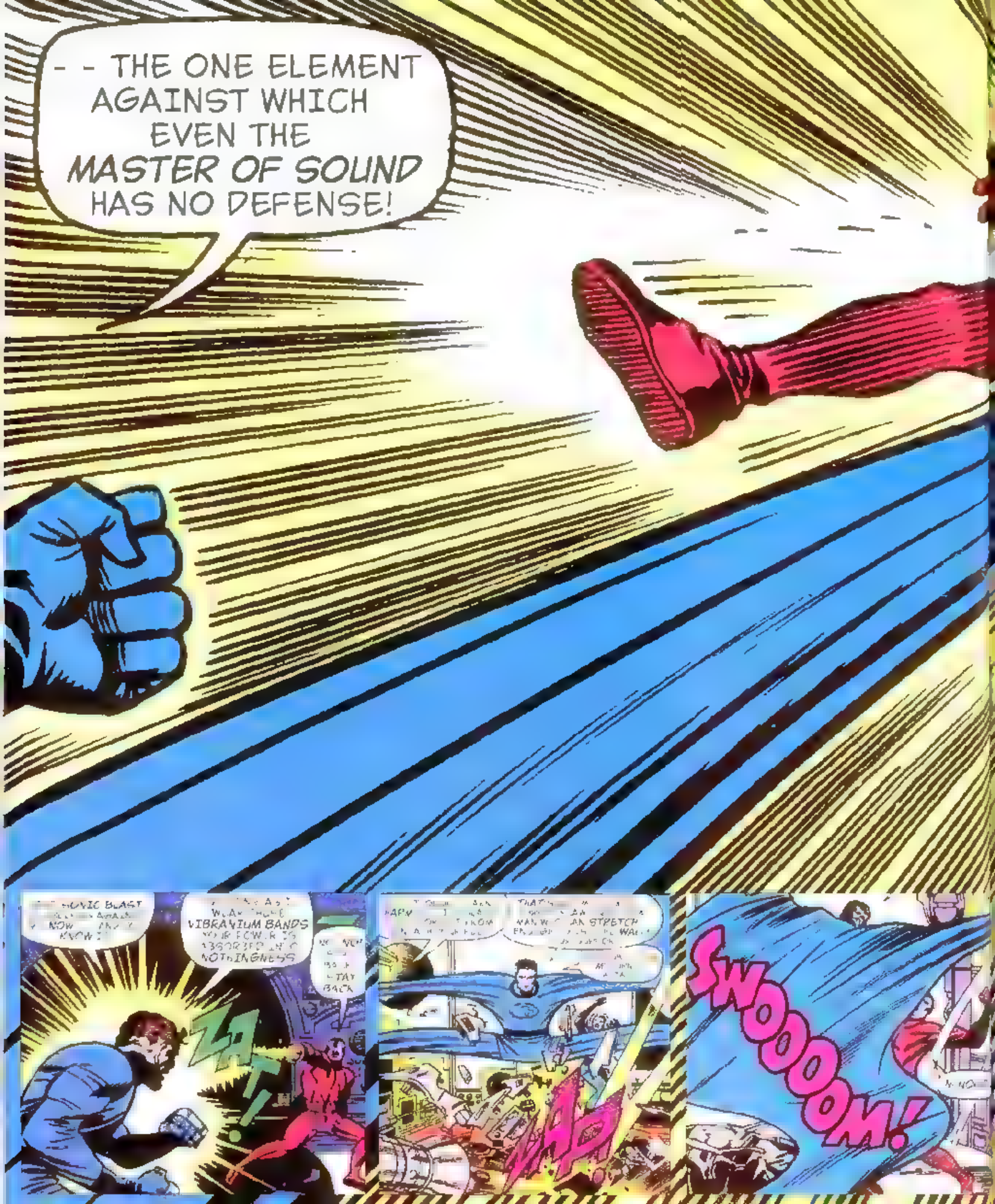
FANTASTI-CAR

The Fantasti-car

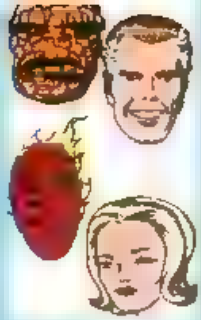
Flying

Pogo-Planes and time travel

While Reed invents most of the FF's technological assistance devices, he secured from their enemies. For quick trips around the world, the FF have a Pogo-Plane that has vertical take-off and landing abilities. They also have a captured Skrull starship that they use for galactic travel. A time platform and space/time sled are available for trips to alternate time eras or dimensions.


- - THE ONE ELEMENT AGAINST WHICH EVEN THE MASTER OF SOUND HAS NO DEFENSE!
SONIC BLAST
VIBRAVIUM BANDS
NOTHINGNESS
SWOOOOM!

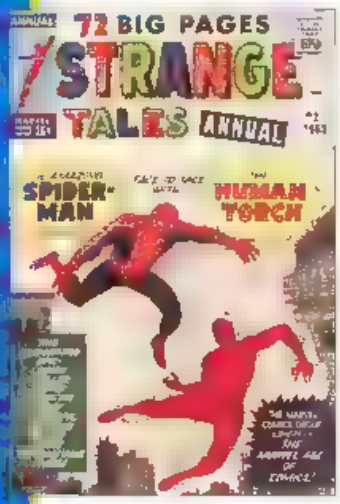
BOK!
SMOTHERED
THIS!
THWUUSH!
HIM
POWER



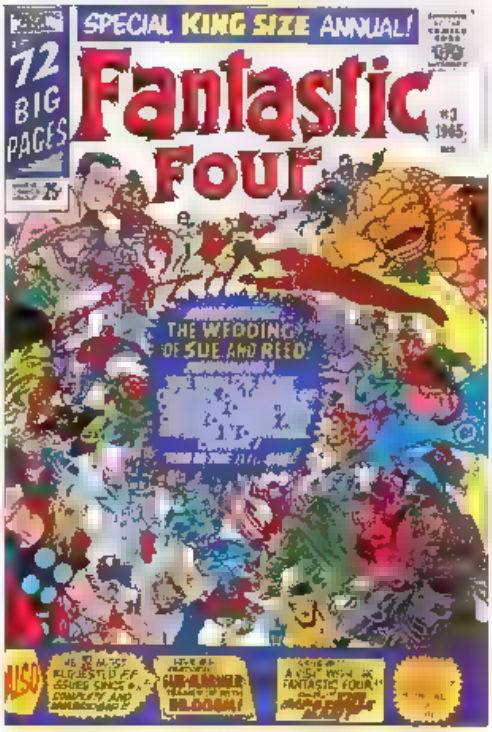
SIXTIES

The Fantastic Four in the 1960s

According to legend, *The Fantastic Four* (and the entire Marvel Universe) were born on a golf course. Martin Goodman, who owned the company that would eventually become known as Marvel Comics, was playing golf one day with Jack Liebowitz, who ran the comic-book publisher that would become DC Comics. Liebowitz happened to mention that his best-selling title was *The Justice League of America*, the story of a team of Super Heroes. Goodman told his editor and chief writer, Stan Lee, to come up with a super-team that they could publish. Stan was not too keen on the idea at first. Goodman had already published and abandoned Super Hero comics in the 1940s and 1950s. Why should the 1960s be any different? After talking with his wife, Stan Lee realized that it was his job to make things different. He turned to his longtime collaborator Jack Kirby and together they produced *The Fantastic Four*, the Super Hero comic for people who hated Super Hero comics! *The Fantastic Four* broke every comic-book cliché. They did not wear costumes or have secret identities, were not particularly interested in fighting crime, and squabbled among themselves like a real family. Stan and Jack produced 93 issues and six giant-sized annuals of *The Fantastic Four* during the 1960s. They laid the creative foundation of the entire Marvel Universe, introducing a host of memorable characters, exotic locales, and mind-blowing concepts. Under Stan and Jack *The Fantastic Four* truly became "The World's Greatest Comic Magazine"!



Strange Tales Annual #2 (1963). *The Torch teams up with Spider-Man for the first time*



Fantastic Four Annual #3 (1965). *The wedding of Reed Richards and Susan Storm, featuring every Super Hero in the Marvel Universe and every villain the FF had ever fought. (Cover by Jack Kirby)*

1961

The Fantastic Four #1 (Nov. 1961). *The origin of the FF. Cover by Jack Kirby*

1962

The Fantastic Four #5 (July 1962). *The first appearance of Doom. Cover by Jack Kirby*

1963

The Fantastic Four #12 (May 1963). *The FF meet the Hulk. Cover by Jack Kirby*

1964

Fantastic Four #28 (Mar. 1964). *The FF and the Avengers fight the Hulk. Cover by Jack Kirby*

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!
Fantastic Four
GUEST STARS GALORE! AS THE F.F. TANGLES WITH THE X-MEN!
THE MAD THINKER! PUPPET MASTER! THE AWESOME ANDROID!

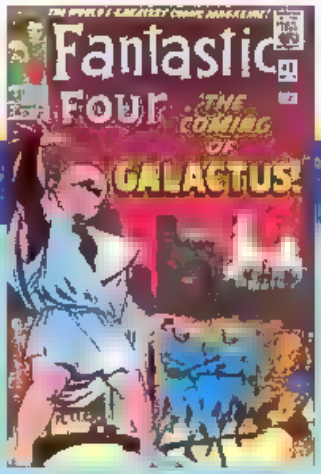
Fantastic Four #28 (July 1964) Tricked by the Mad Thinker and Puppet Master, the uncanny X-Men attack the F.F. (Cover by Jack Kirby)

Fantastic Four #51 (June 1966) "This Man, This Monster" explores Ben Grimm's character and is considered to be one of the best FF stories of all time. It also introduces the idea of sub-space that will come to be known as the Negative Zone. (Cover by Jack Kirby)

1965

Fantastic Four #36 (Mar. 1965) Lee & Kirby create the Frightful Four (Cover by Jack Kirby)

1966



Fantastic Four #48 (Mar. 1966) The first appearance of Galactus (Cover by Jack Kirby)

1968

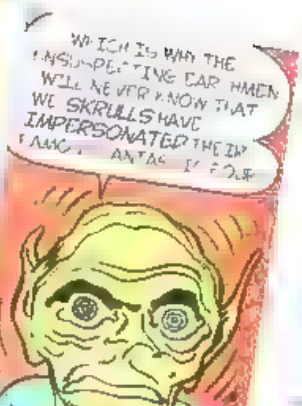
Fantastic Four #83 (Sept. 1968) The Frightful Four regain humanity. (Cover by Jack Kirby)

1969

Fantastic Four #90 (May 1969) The F.F. is trapped in Latveria. (Cover by Jack Kirby)

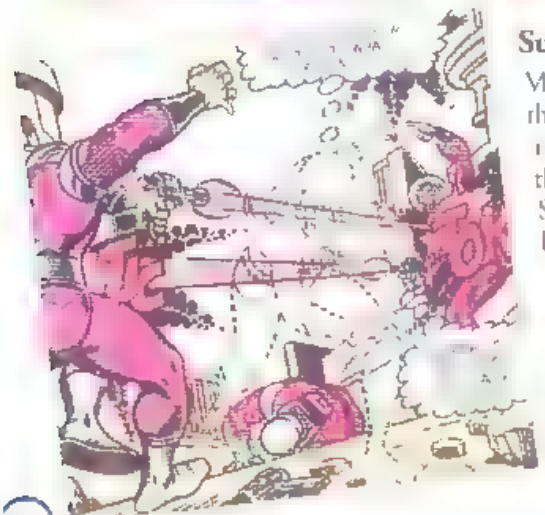
Skrulls

SKRULLS COME from outer space and secretly live among humans. They are an alien race of shape-changers and can instantly assume the appearance of any person, animal, or thing that they can imagine. Since it also takes a conscious act of will for Skrulls to revert to their natural forms, they can fall asleep or be knocked unconscious without losing their disguise. The Skrulls have conquered nearly a thousand worlds by secretly posing as the natives of a planet before attacking it.



Fantastic fakes

The Skrulls had spied on the Earth for centuries, but they had no interest in this planet until humans began to develop space travel. When the Fantastic Four gained their amazing powers during a space flight, the Skrulls realized that humans might eventually evolve into a powerful space-faring race that could threaten their galactic empire. The Skrulls decided to impersonate the new super-team and turn the Earth against them, but the FF soon turned the tables on the shape-shifting aliens.



Super-Skrull

More determined than ever to conquer the Earth, the Skrull Emperor selected his greatest warrior and [illegible] to be possessed of all the powers of the Fantastic Four. The Super Skrull challenged the FF to a death duel but was soon defeated and imprisoned. He later escaped and disguised as [illegible] kidnapped Sue and Johnny's father Dr. Franklin Storm. The FF defeated the Super-Skrull but could not save Dr. Storm.

Ravenous empire

There are over 30 billion Skrulls in the universe, and they are all ruled by a single Supreme Emperor or Empress. Their ever-expanding empire extends throughout the Andromeda Galaxy, and it is always encroaching on several neighboring galaxies. The central Skrull government used to be based on a planet called Throneworld, but that was recently consumed by Galactus, the devourer of worlds. The Skrulls are a highly advanced and ruthless race. Their entire economy is built around their military, and they have waged a series of wars for more than a million years with another alien race called the Kree.

Miracle Man

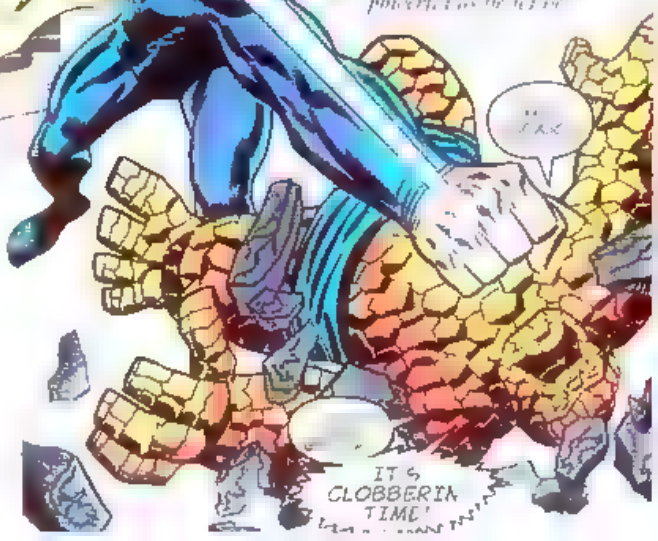
He was the world's greatest illusionist, a master-hypnotist who could instantly enthrall thousands of people. But the Miracle Man wanted more than mere fame—he desired true power. He used his abilities against the Fantastic Four, wreaking havoc by convincing people that a giant plaster monster was running amok in the city. Miracle Man lost his powers and was defeated when the Torch temporarily blinded him with a burst of flame. He was captured and put in prison, where he studied everything he could about mind control. He learned of a legendary group of Native American shamans who had the power of total mind control, and upon his release, he went in search of them. Under the guidance of the shamans, Miracle Man developed the power to create any reality that he could imagine.

THE WARRIOR OF WARRIORS

Long ago in the mythological [illegible] hypnotic beam from his [illegible]

MIND OVER MATTER

With mind control, Miracle Man can become a big and powerful bully.



A Skrull takes a slave

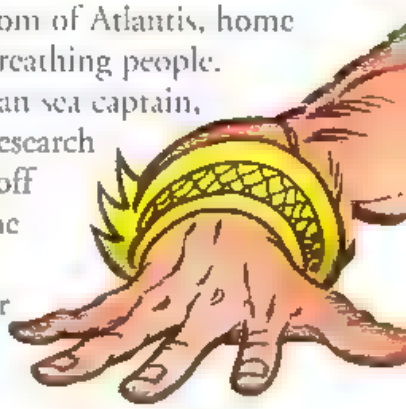
Realizing he [illegible] Skrull came up with a new plan. He [illegible] Mr. Fantastic Reed Richards and lured the Thing into a trap. The Skrull kidnapped him and sold him into slavery. The [illegible] plan and pitted him against a strong robot called Torgo in the Arena of Death. Luckily, the Human Torch arrived in time to stop the battle and free all the slaves.

Fantastic Four Special Edition Vol. 1 #41 (May 1984). The Sub-Mariner tests the human race. (Cover art by John Byrne)

Sub-Mariner

Prince Namor of Atlantis

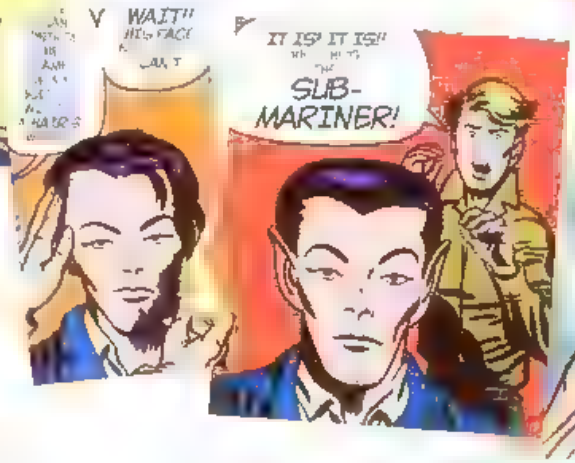
PRINCE NAMOR rules over the undersea Kingdom of Atlantis, home to *Homo Mermanus*—a race of intelligent, water-breathing people. Namor is the son of an Atlantean princess and American sea captain, Leonard McKenzie. His parents met in 1920 when a research vessel, under the command of Captain McKenzie, set off explosive charges in the ocean to break up icebergs. The explosions accidentally sent shockwaves into Atlantis, which was located below. Fearing his kingdom was under attack, the Atlantean Emperor sent his daughter, Princess Fen, to the surface to investigate. She boarded McKenzie's ship and fell in love with the Captain.



Enter the Sub Mariner

When Princess Fen failed to return, her father assumed that she had been taken prisoner by the surface men and he sent a war party to rescue her. McKenzie fell in the attack, and Fen returned to Atlantis where she gave birth. The heir to the throne was named Namor, meaning "Avenging Son," and grew up with an antagonistic attitude toward surface people. Namor did not trust air-breathers and used his superhuman powers to attack the surface world. He battled the original Human Torch, an android Super Hero who fought crime in the 1940s and 50s. Although during World War II, the Sub-Mariner formed an alliance with the Torch and Captain America against the Axis powers. The Sub-Mariner was forgotten until he was rediscovered by Johnny Storm.

After arguing with the Thing, Johnny decided to quit the FF and hid in a rundown hotel in New York's Bowery. He discovered an amnesiac derelict who was, in fact, Namor!



Johnny uses his flame to [illegible] and reveal Namor. After his discovery, the Torch flew Namor to the harbor. The ocean water reinvigorated him and restored his memory.

FIRE AND WATER

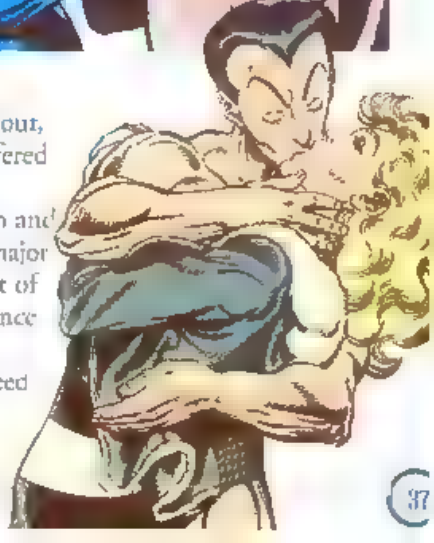
Namor was far from grateful to Johnny for [illegible]. When he discovered that Atlantis had been destroyed in his absence, his hostility toward the human race increased. [illegible] Johnny often battled Namor, putting his fire powers against the sea king.

Sea power

The Sub-Mariner is one of the strongest living creatures on the planet when in the water, but his strength begins to decrease when he is out of the ocean. If Namor were completely cut off from any source of water, he would dehydrate within a week and die. Namor possesses a radar vision that allows him to sense objects in the murky depths of the ocean and he can also communicate telepathically with many forms of undersea life. As well as being able to swim at superhuman speed, Namor has the ability to fly, due to the wings on his ankles.

Deadly attractions

During his first battle with the Fantastic Four, Namor fell in love with Sue Storm and offered to spare mankind if she became his bride. To win her, he even bought a movie studio and offered the FF a million dollars to star in a major motion picture when they briefly ran short of funds. Jealous of Reed, the Sub-Mariner once kidnapped Sue and tried to prove his love for her. Though she seemed to be attracted to Namor, Sue eventually decided that Reed was the man for her. Namor later fell in love with and married the Lady Dorma, but she was murdered on their wedding day.



Doctor Doom

Victor Von Doom

BORN TO peasants in a small village in the tiny Balkan kingdom of Latveria, Victor Von Doom rose to become monarch of his nation and now plots to rule the entire world. His mother, who died when he was still an infant, was considered by many to be a witch. Victor's father, Werner Von Doom, was a gypsy healer, but when he failed to cure a local baron's wife from a terminal disease, he and Victor were forced to flee their village. Werner later died of exposure, and Victor vowed to punish the entire world for the loss of his parents. Using his mother's magical artifacts and book of spells, he began to amass formidable mystical knowledge. His intensive scientific studies also enabled him to build many astounding devices

IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE IS AS ANXIOUS TO SEE THE SCIENTIST AS I AM
MY NAME'S RICHARDS, PELLA.
RICHARDS!
THAT IS NO CONCERN OF MINE!

THE LONER

When they first met at University, Reed Richards offered to become Victor Von Doom's roommate, but he had no interest in making friends and snubbed Reed.

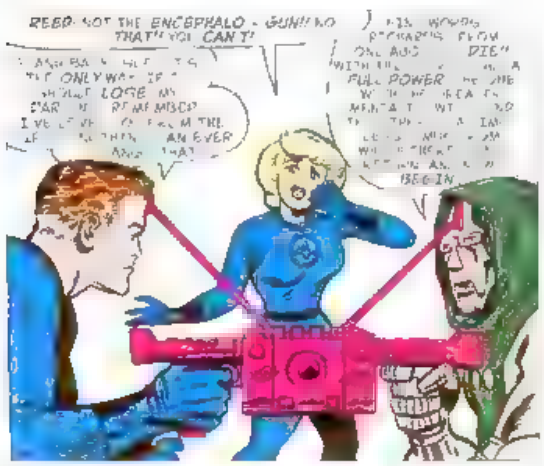
Flawed genius

Victor Von Doom's abilities led to the offer of a scholarship at the State University in New York. It was here that he met Reed Richards. When Doom began work on a trans-dimensional projection device, Richards pointed out an error in his calculations. Ignoring the warning, Victor tested the machine. It exploded in his face, leaving a thin scar. Expelled from college, he journeyed to Tibet, where he joined a mysterious order of monks to learn the secrets of sorcery. The monks built him an armored suit and a faceplate to hide his facial flaw, but Doom put on the mask before it had cooled, creating severe, extensive scarring. Renaming himself Doctor Doom, he then returned to Latveria and seized control of the country.

IT MAY BE IT WAS TOO SOON TO USE THE MASK! IT HASN'T COOLED!
NEVER AGAIN WILL MORTAL MAN LOOK ON THE HIDEOUS VISAGE OF VICTOR VON DOOM!
WISER STRONGER MORE BRILLIANT MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER BEFORE!!
FROM THIS MOMENT ON, I SHALL BE KNOWN AS... DOCTOR DOOM!

ORIGIN OF DOOM

Donning fearsome armor and a mask to hide his scarred face Victor becomes Doctor Doom

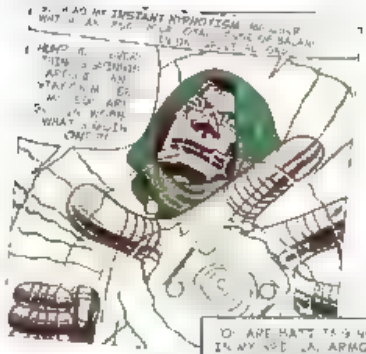


Bitter rivals

Doom's desire for conquest eventually led to conflict with Reed Richards, now the leader of the Fantastic Four. Doom forced the FF to go back in time to search for the magic gems of Merlin, which would make him invincible. Defeated, he unsuccessfully tried to strand the FF, firstly in outer space and then in a micro-universe. Obsessed with trying to prove his superiority over Reed, Doom challenged him to a deadly battle of minds using the Encephalo-Gun. Reed's sudden disappearance led Doom to believe he had won. However, he had been duped, once again outwitted by his old adversary.

A formidable foe

Doctor Doom's mastery of science extends into the fields of robotics, weapons technology, and biochemistry. His nuclear-powered, computer-enhanced body armor is equipped with various offensive and defensive weapons, including gauntlet particle-beam blasters, force fields, and the ability to charge the armor's surface with 30,000 volts of electricity. A compact jet pack enables him to fly. Doom is a master of hand-to-hand combat, and through his study of the mystic arts, he has learned how to transfer his mind into other bodies. As the ruler of Latveria, he also has full diplomatic immunity and cannot be arrested in the U.S.A.



USEFUL DEVICES

Doctor Doom's technical skills have enabled him to create many handy gadgets, such as the hypnotism impulser (left) and the gravity sensitizer (below)

Kristoff Vernard

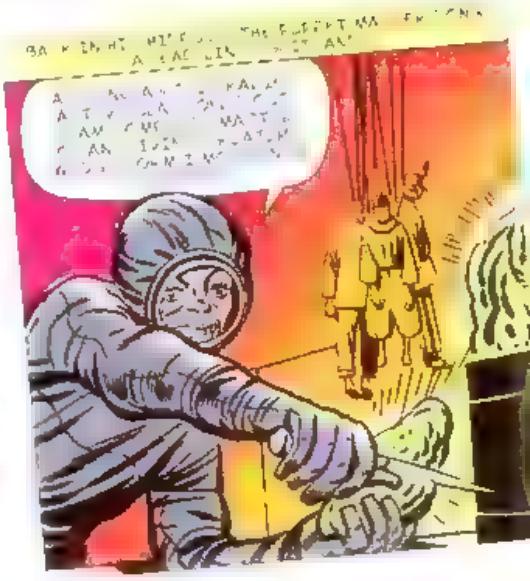
After the failure of his attempt to create an heir through cloning experiments, Doom took the orphaned child Kristoff Vernard under his care when the boy's mother was accidentally killed by Latverian rebels. Doom made Kristoff his heir, schooling him to rule Latveria with a firm hand. Doom's robotic replicas, the Doombots, usually ruled Latveria in his absence, but when it appeared that Doom had died at the hands of Terrax, they programmed Kristoff's mind with all of Doom's memories. Believing that he was actually Victor Von Doom, Kristoff launched an attack on the Fantastic Four. This continued until the real Doom returned to claim his throne, restoring Kristoff's own identity using a memory switch implanted in his brain.

A Doombot blasts the FF with its eye-slit energy rays

Kristoff Vernard, believing himself to be Doctor Doom, prepares to don the Super Villain's mask.

Puppet Master

Philip Masters was born in the Balkans and moved to the United States when he was eight years old. A shy and lonely child, he spent most of his time carving wooden marionettes and sculpting figures out of clay. He studied biology in college and became partners with his friend Jacob Reiss in a small research firm. Their company studied a special radioactive clay that Masters had discovered in his homeland. Reiss was married and had a young daughter named Alicia. Over time Masters became insanely jealous of his partner and decided to steal the clay for himself. He planted a bomb in the building to destroy the business, but it accidentally killed Reiss and blinded his daughter. Overcome with guilt, Philip Masters married his partner's widow and adopted Alicia.

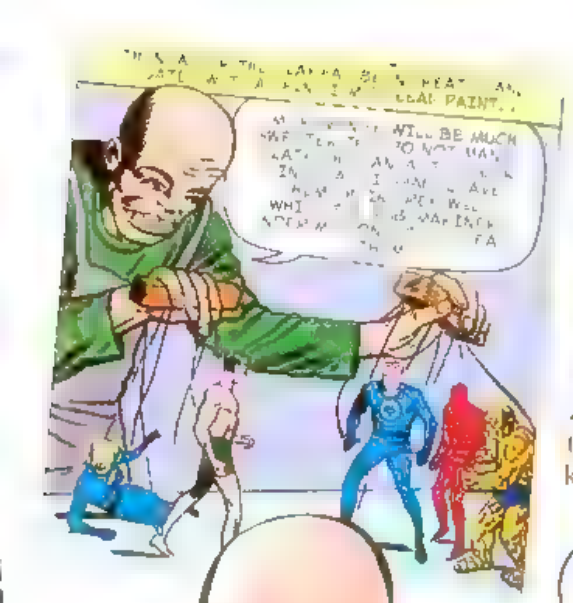


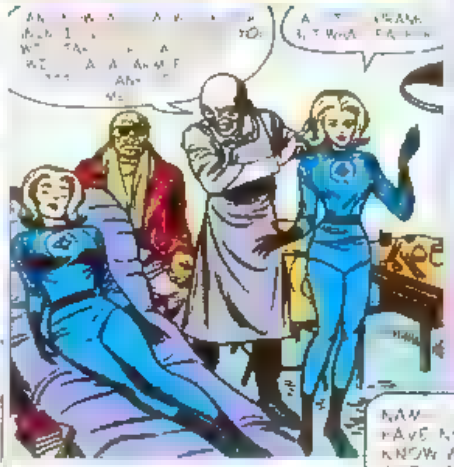
From Masters to Master

Masters discovered that his radioactive clay had a special power. If he made a lifelike puppet of someone, he could mentally force that person to do his bidding. To test his power, the Puppet Master commanded one of his victims to commit suicide by leaping off a bridge, but the Human Torch rescued the man. Furious at the FF's interference, Masters promptly carved a puppet of the Thing and turned him against his teammates. Mr. Fantastic freed the Thing by temporarily changing him back into his human form, and the team then managed to defeat the Puppet Master.

Pawns of the Puppet Master

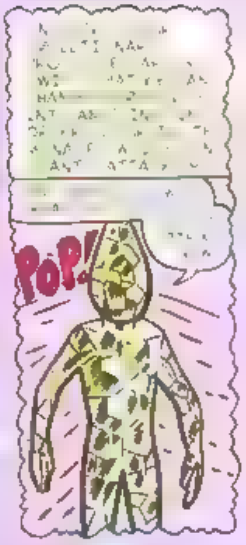
The Puppet Master believed that it was his destiny to rule the entire planet. He intended to force all the government leaders into merging their lands into a single kingdom that he would control. Since the Fantastic Four stood in his way, he constantly tried to destroy them. He once pitted the Human Torch against the Thing and later attacked them both with life-size clay figures. He also compelled the Sub-Mariner to kidnap the Invisible Girl.





Partners in crime

After being defeated many times, the Puppet Master gave up and went into hiding. But the Mad Thinker found him and convinced him that they should join forces. Together, they plotted the Fantastic Four's downfall, tricking the X-Men into fighting them and also attacking the FF with an army of androids who resembled all their past enemies.



Impossible Man

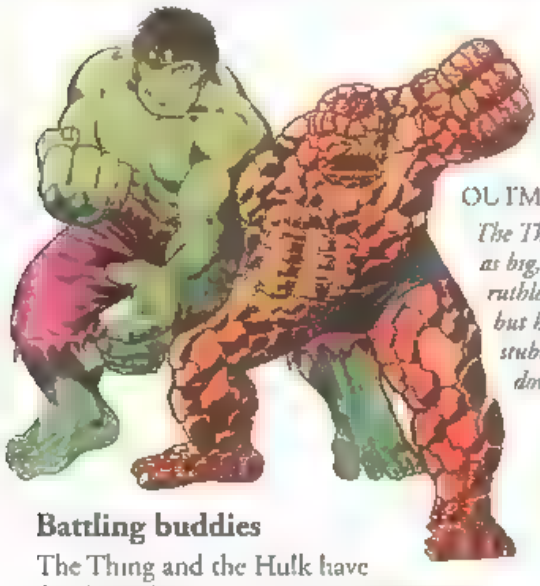
The Impossible Man was born on a distant planet called Poppup, a world filled with dangerous monsters. The inhabitants had to evolve quickly in order to survive and so they developed into a race of shape-changers. The Impossible Man was bored with life on Poppup and turned himself into a spaceship so he could explore the universe. He eventually landed on Earth, where he met the Fantastic Four and made a nuisance of himself with his ridiculous transformations. Poppup was later destroyed by Galactus, and the Impossible Man became the last of his race until he decided to clone himself and form an Impossible Woman. The happy couple later cloned an entire Impossible Family, and they are presently touring the universe together.

The Hulk

DON'T MAKE him angry — you won't like him when he's angry! After being caught in the heart of a nuclear explosion and bathed in Gamma radiation, Dr. Robert Bruce Banner now finds himself transformed into the incredible Hulk during times of stress. The Hulk is one of the most powerful creatures to ever walk the Earth, and his strength grows in direct proportion to his anger. Over the years, the Hulk has been both a hero and villain, possessing the intelligence of Banner on some occasions and being a mindless monster on others.

Mission: stop the Hulk!

The Fantastic Four first encountered the Hulk when General Thaddeus E. Ross requested their aid. Ross's missile base was being sabotaged, and he suspected the Hulk. The FF traveled to New Mexico, where they fought the Hulk before discovering that a foreign spy had actually caused the damage. They fought the Hulk again when he came to New York City to destroy the Avengers.



OUTMATCHED

The Thing is not as big, strong, or ruthless as the Hulk, but he is much too stubborn to back down from a fight.

Battling buddies

The Thing and the Hulk have fought each other many times. Ben was once temporarily driven mad, and thHulk stopped the Thing from going on a rampage.

UNSTOPPABLE

[illegible] enough to [illegible] and [illegible] by hand grenades and [illegible] as well as the [illegible] of the Thing, [illegible] and [illegible] together, the Hulk [illegible] so powerful that [illegible] pounding his fists on the ground

Mad Thinker

LITTLE IS known about the man who calls himself the Thinker but is called the Mad Thinker by everyone else. He was a successful criminal mastermind for years yet the police did not even know he existed. Using a vast network of computers he could predict a likely sequence of events down to the smallest detail, and this enabled him to plot intricate crimes that were virtually foolproof. He outsmarted the law at every turn until he came up against the Fantastic Four.

Kingdom of crime

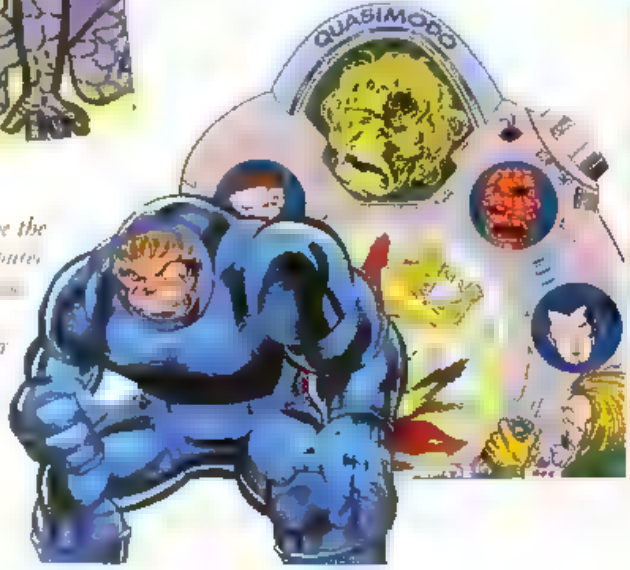
The Thinker devised a plan to seize control of New York City and turn it into an independent nation. He would rule this new nation, and the country's major crime bosses would serve as both his enforcers and his ambassadors to the other American cities. Only the Fantastic Four stood in his way so he arranged for the team to leave New York. In their absence, the Thinker took over the Baxter Building, but the FF returned unexpectedly and defeated him.

Awesome android

Whilst in the Baxter Building, the Thinker used some of Reed's research to construct an artificial creature, 15 feet tall. Made of robotic and organic parts, the android was super-strong and could mimic the physical properties of anything it touched.

VIRTUAL FREEDOM

The Thinker developed a way of projecting his mind into an android body so he could continue his criminal activities from a prison cell.



QUASIMODO

Originally designed to be the Thinker's personal computer, Quasimodo was later given a robotic form by the Silver Surfer. He possesses super strength and can project blasts of concussive force.

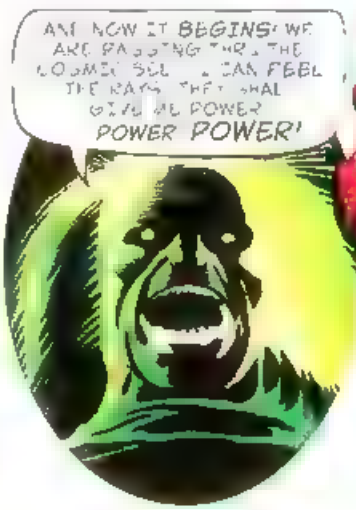
Obsessed with finding a way to defeat the FF, the Thinker once became convinced that Daredevil could predict the future. The Thinker threatened to kill the Thing in order to assure Daredevil's cooperation.

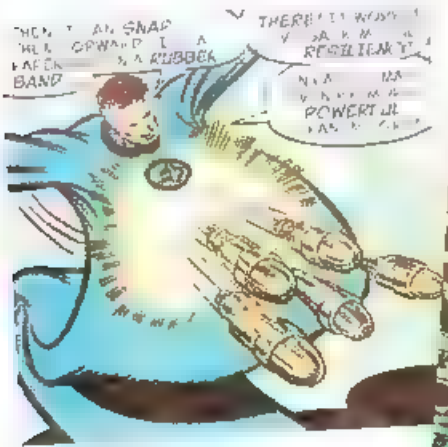
The Red Ghost Ivan Kragoff

IVAN KRAGOFF was a Russian scientist who worked for the former Soviet Union. He became fascinated by the Fantastic Four and began to study their history. Kragoff believed he could recreate the accident that gave the FF their super-powers, and he convinced his government to build a spaceship that was specifically designed to expose its crew to cosmic rays. Instead of testing his theory on other humans, Kragoff decided to use two great apes and a monkey that he trained for the mission. Blasting into space on the same day that the Fantastic Four had embarked on their journey, Kragoff and his apes headed directly into a cosmic storm that transformed them into the infamous Red Ghost and his fiendish Super-Apes.

Untouchable

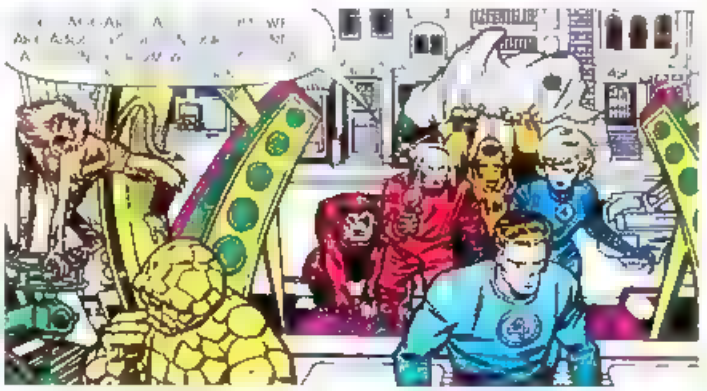
After being exposed to the cosmic rays, Kragoff gained the ability to become a living phantom. He can become intangible at will and is able to make part of his body solid while the rest remains insubstantial. Although he cannot turn invisible, he can make his body transparent. He has acquired the ability to assume a mistlike form so that he looks like a real ghost.



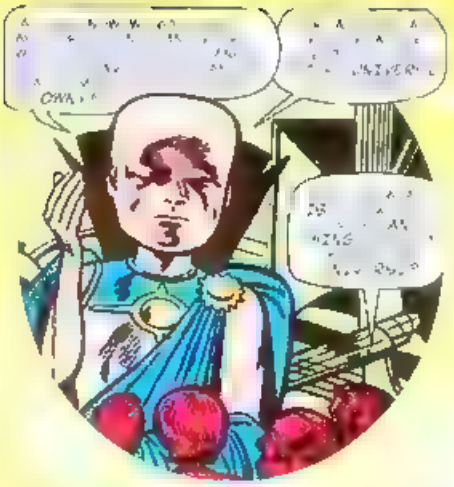


Evenly matched?
Kragoff keeps trying to prove that he is Mr Fantastic's physical and intellectual superior, but the Red Ghost has lost every battle they have ever fought.

Simian assistants

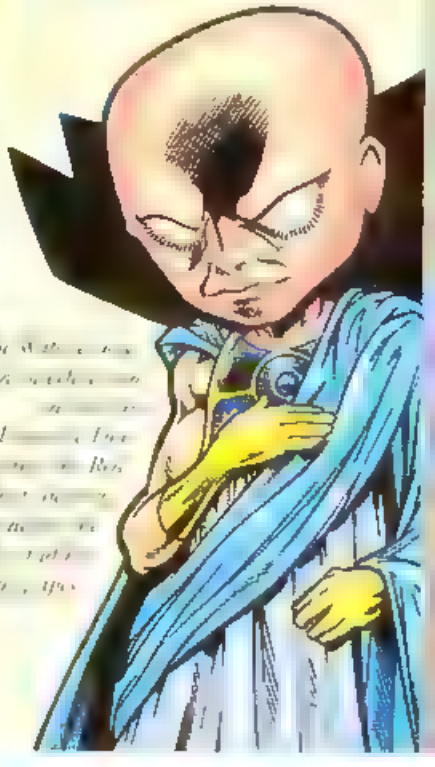


Trading places

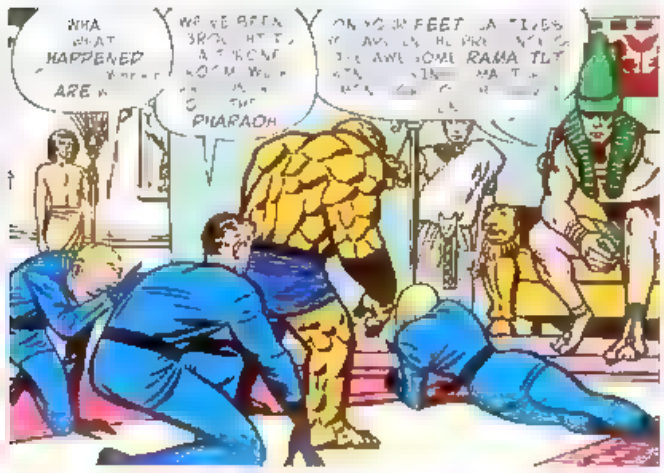


The Watcher

His name is Uatu the all seeing Watcher. Uatu belongs to an incredibly powerful alien race that secretly observes everything that happens in the universe. Assigned to watch the Earth, Uatu lives in the Blue Area of the Moon. The Watcher is virtually immortal and possesses immeasurable psionic abilities. He can also convert his body into pure energy and instantaneously transport himself anywhere in the universe. Uatu met the FF on their first visit to the Moon and instantly developed a fondness for them. Though he is prohibited from interfering in the affairs of other races, as Watcher has often helped the Fantastic Four to save the Earth from various super-menaces.



Rama-Tut aka Kang, Immortus, & Scarlet Centurion



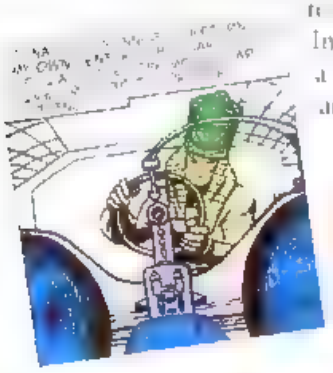
RAMA TUT CAME from the year 3000, a glorious age of peace and progress—and he was bored out of his mind! Instead of posterity and enlightenment, he craved action and adventure. After accidentally discovering that one of his ancestors had built a time machine, he spent years trying to recreate it. He built his time machine to look like the Sphinx and journeyed to ancient Egypt where he used his scientific knowledge to become the absolute monarch of the ancient world.

Prisoners of the pharaoh

While investigating hieroglyphics at a natural history museum, Mr. Fantastic became convinced that the ancient Egyptians had a cure for blindness. Hoping to cure Alicia Masters, he gathered the rest of the Fantastic Four and used their time machine to travel into the past. With the aid of his futuristic weaponry, Rama-Tut captured the FF, but they escaped and forced the pharaoh to flee back to the future.

Time traumas

As Rama-Tut journeyed back to the year 3000, he discovered a disruption in the time stream that caused him to create a number of alternate realities. In one reality, he landed on a version of present-day Earth and convinced the Avengers to take control of the Earth. In another, he found himself on a war-torn Earth in the year 4000 and ultimately conquered it.



Related to Reed

Rama-Tut first believed that he was a descendant of Doctor Doom, but his ancient ancestor was actually Nathaniel Richards, father of Reed Richards. After Reed's mother died, Nathaniel journeyed to an alternate Earth, remarried and had another son, whose bloodline eventually produced Rama-Tut.

Rama-Tut adopted the identity of Kang the Conqueror, the ruler of the Scarlet Centurions. He eventually became a powerful time traveler and made his capital city in the lost land of Limbo.

Molecule Man

Owen Reece was once a small and timid young man who worked in a nuclear plant as a laboratory technician. Dissatisfied by his job's long hours and low pay, he grew careless one day and was accidentally exposed to an unknown form of radiation. Owen soon realized that he had gained the power to control matter. He could now make mountains lighter than air, turn iron into gold, or transform a block of ice into an army tank. He had become the Molecule Man, the most dangerous and powerful being in the entire multiverse!

Owen the Almighty

The Molecule Man posed such a terrible threat to the entire plane of reality that Uatu the Watcher violated his oath to stay out of the affairs of other races and sent the Fantastic Four after Owen. The FF managed to trick Owen and turned him over to the Watcher. Owen later escaped and returned to Earth where he battled both the FF and the Avengers. Realizing that he didn't want to be a Super Villain, Owen agreed to see a therapist and gradually stopped trying to conquer the Earth.

Volcana

Owen was later transported to Battleworld, a planet created by the super-powered alien known as the Beyonder. He met Marsha Rosenberg, aka Volcana, who had been given volcanic powers by Doctor Doom. Owen fell in love with her and agreed to help Doom battle the Beyonder. After returning to Earth, Owen briefly settled down with Marsha but they later split up.

Diablo

DIABLO IS the world's greatest master of the ancient science of alchemy, an early form of chemistry that sought to transform base metals into gold. Born to a rich Spanish nobleman in the early ninth century, Esteban Diablo believed that he could use alchemy to rule humanity, and he traveled the world to study it. He hunted down powerful artifacts, amassed secret formulas, experimented with bizarre potions, and searched for rare herbs. As his mastery of the arcane art grew, so did his personal power. Diablo discovered an elixir that could slow aging to the point that he became temporarily immortal. He later acquired a castle in Transylvania, where he set up a laboratory and terrorized the local countryside for centuries. The villagers revolted and imprisoned him within a massive crypt. Diablo was trapped for more than 100 years, dreaming of his revenge.

Potion power

Diablo possesses an enormous collection of potions that seem almost magical in nature. His concoctions include pellets full of nerve gas, medicines that cause people to experience wild hallucinations, a potion that instantly lowers a person's body temperature to freeze them in place, and one that makes a person susceptible to Diablo's will. His costume is lined with hidden pockets and pouches, where he keeps his various elixirs and alchemical weapons.

Free at last

While on a vacation to Transylvania, the Fantastic Four stumbled upon the abandoned castle of Diablo. A local Baron warned them to stay away from it and told them of the terrible legends surrounding Diablo. One night, the Thing heard a whisper and followed the voice to a hidden crypt. Ben used his strength to smash the stone slab that held the alchemist prisoner, and Diablo was set loose. Determined to become master of all mankind, Diablo wanted to secure the help of the Thing.

DIABOLIC ALCHEMY

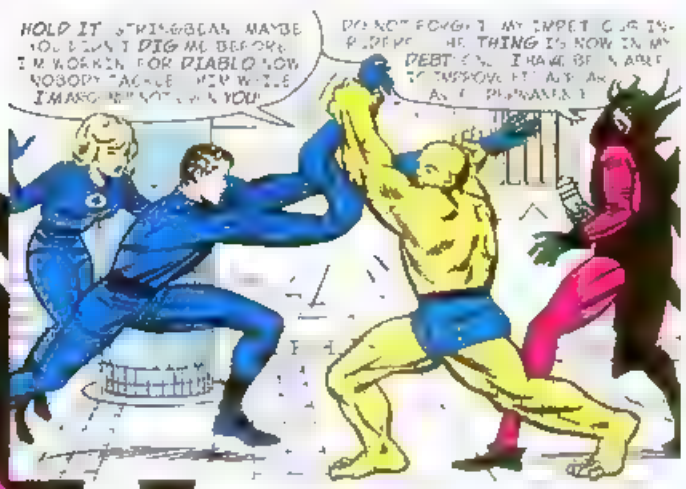
Diablo was allegedly transformed several times by mythical creatures. Triple cross to quickly interrogate the changeling's appearance, and potato peel, because its blood can make as many duplicates as you like. He can also control organic matter and the bones of others.

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF! I AM KNOWN AS DIABLO! I AM THIS WORLD'S NEW ASSISTANT TO THE ONE YOU USED TO CALL THE THING!
WE'RE DELIGHTED FOR YOU, BEN! BUT WHAT DOES HE MEAN BY REFERRING TO DIABLO AS HIS ASSISTANT?

The pawn and the potion

The rest of the Fantastic Four learned of Ben's absence the next morning and followed his trail to the castle. They discovered that Diablo had mixed a potion that improved Ben's appearance. Believing that the alchemist could restore Ben's humanity so that he could marry Alicia Masters, Ben agreed to serve Diablo for one year. Diablo sold his potions and used the money to build an army to conquer the world. When the potions wore off, Ben regained his senses and chased Diablo into his crypt.

HOW ABOUT THAT, REED? THAT'S WHAT HE DID TO ME--TURNED ME INTO A BLOCK IN ROSE!
HE'S DONE MORE THAN THAT! HE'S MANAGED TO INFLUENCE YOU TO STEAL YOUR LOYALTY! BUT HE WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT!


HOLD IT, STRETCH! I MADE YOU! I DIG ME BEFORE I'M WORKIN' FOR DIABLO NOW! NOBODY TACKLE HIM WHILE I MASCOT'S NOT LOOKIN'!
DO NOT FORGET, MY SWEET, OUR INVESTMENT IS PAID! THE THING IS NOW IN MY DEBT! I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO INSINUATE MYSELF AS HIS PLANNER!

While Diablo's elixirs can accomplish some amazing feats, Reed Richards discovered that the effects are only temporary.

Back to basics

Diablo has returned on numerous occasions. He once battled Doctor Doom and was exiled into an alternate dimension. After gaining freedom, Diablo kidnapped Crystal and attempted to stir up a revolution in a small Central American country so that he could exploit the country's natural resources for his alchemy. He also created elemental beings composed of earth, fire, air and water and repeatedly sent them to destroy the Fantastic Four. Though recently reportedly killed in a battle with Alpha Flight, a team of Canadian Super Heroes, Diablo has successfully cheated death for more than 1,000 years.

Dragon Man

Professor Gregson Gilbert was a biologist specializing in super-powered humans. He attempted to construct a robot more powerful than anything that lived. Dragon Man was the result. However, it was redundant until Diablo used alchemy to give the creature artificial life. Dragon Man stands over 15 feet high and weighs more than 3 tons. It can fly, has super-strength, and can exhale fire like a real dragon. Its 7-foot-long tail can move nearly 90 miles an hour and is strong enough to shatter a stone wall. Possessing the intelligence of the average dog, Dragon Man is usually used as a pawn by other villains. The creature has formed a special attachment to Sue Richards and has often tried to capture her.

A GATHERING OF EVIL

Sandman and Trapster waited eagerly to meet the fourth member of their new team. When the Wizard introduced them to Medusa, they were impressed. Now, with their combined powers, the Fantastic Four could finally be defeated.

Frightful Four

TWO CRIMINALS, Paste Pot Pete (later known as Trapster and Sandman, escaped from prison and met the Wizard, a villain who had just suffered yet another defeat at the hands of the Torch. They realized that they stood a much better chance of defeating their common enemy—the Fantastic Four—if they joined forces. All they needed was one more member to be the FF's evil counterpart. The Wizard heard of a mysterious woman known as Madam Medusa who possessed extraordinary powers and knew he had found the perfect addition to their team. Once Madam Medusa was in place, the Frightful Four were ready to embark on a crusade of crime.

The evil FF

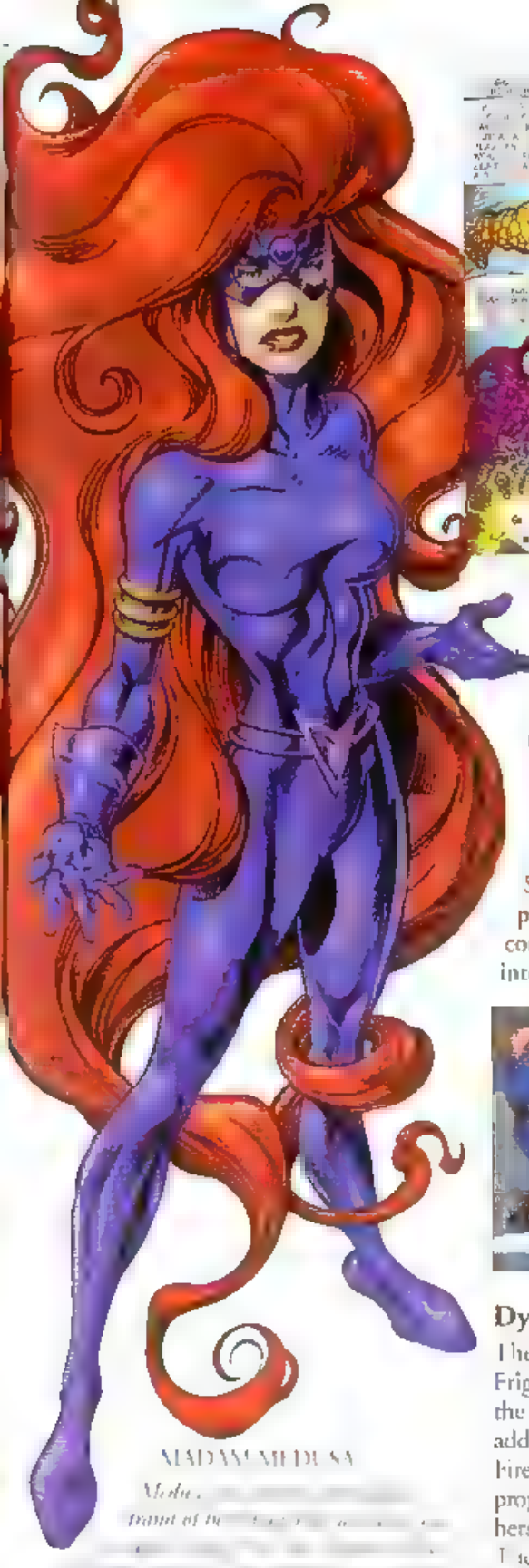
The Frightful Four planned their first attack on the Fantastic Four to coincide with a party held at the Baxter Building to celebrate the engagement of Sue and Reed. They waited until all the Super Hero guests had left before storming the FF headquarters. They managed to capture Reed, Sue, Ben, and Alicia Masters, but luckily Johnny had already left to meet friends. The Wizard put his captives to sleep, tied them together, and attached a powerful anti-gravity disc to each of them before setting them adrift from the roof of the Baxter Building. The Frightful Four congratulated each other on their success as they watched their enemies float higher and higher and were furious when the Torch arrived to save his friends and thwart their evil plans.

THE WIZARD

The Wizard was a celebrity known throughout the world for inventing futuristic devices that he sold to the rich. He became jealous of the publicity the Fantastic Four were receiving—the Torch in particular—so he invented a costume that allowed him to master the force of gravity and mimic the Torch's powers.

TRAPSTER

Peter Petroski was a research chemist who invented a super-strong paste and decided to use it to embark on a career of crime. Calling himself Paste Pot Pete, he developed numerous weapons that dispensed his paste with pin-point accuracy, trapping victims instantly and restraining them helpless for hours. He later changed his name to the Trapster.



MADAM MEDUSA

Medusa

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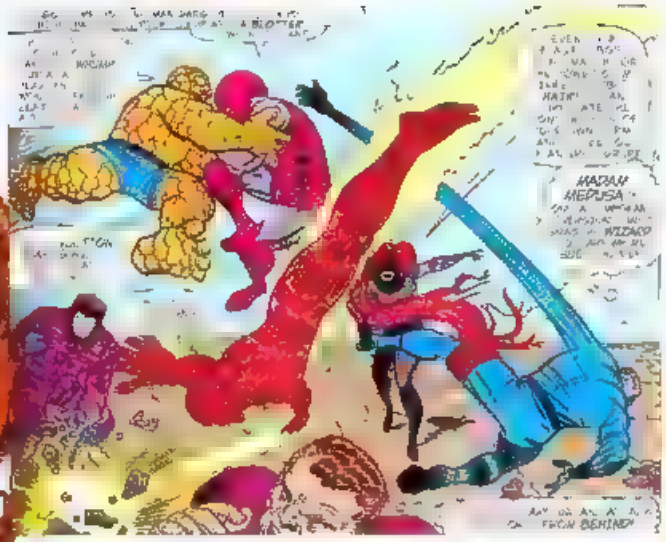


INHUMAN ALLY

Suffering from amnesia, an Inhuman named Medusa wandered the Mediterranean, committing small crimes to survive. The Wizard heard rumors of the woman with living hair and discovered her in a cave on the French coast. He rescued her and took her to the United States. Since she was grateful for his help, Medusa agreed to join the Frightful Four.

The legion of substitute villains

Eventually Medusa's memory returned and she left the Frightful Four. She was replaced by a villain named Thundra, but she quit soon after. The remaining members of the Frightful Four captured the Fantastic Four, assumed control of the Baxter Building, and held auditions for a fourth member. They chose the man-monster known as the Brute. The Wizard also convinced Electro, the master of electricity, to briefly join the team and even tried to trick Spider-Man into attacking the FF. Disgusted with his former partners, the Wizard formed an all new Frightful Four that consisted of Klaw, Hydro-Man, who can transform his body into water, and Titania, a woman with superhuman strength.

Salamandra the Fire Maiden can transform herself into a fierce fire-breathing dragon.

Dysfunctional

The Wizard recently reformed the Frightful Four. He brought back the Trapster and Hydro-Man and added his ex-wife Salamandra the Fire Maiden. She has the ability to project blue flames and can transform herself into a dragonlike creature. The Wizard also attempted to include his daughter Cole, who can make things heavier or lighter just by touching them. Unfortunately, she also gains or depletes her own mass in the process. Cole lured the Torch into a trap, but she later regretted it and turned against her father

Inhumans

OVER 25,000 years ago, aliens known as the Kree visited the Earth, during their endless war with the Skrulls. Though primitive man was just learning how to make fire, the Kree feared that humans might eventually evolve into a powerful race that could be a threat to them. They isolated a small tribe of humans and began to experiment on them, hoping to create an army of super-powerful warriors that would serve their galactic empire. Kree scientists genetically altered the members of this tribe, who became the first Inhumans.

They hide among us

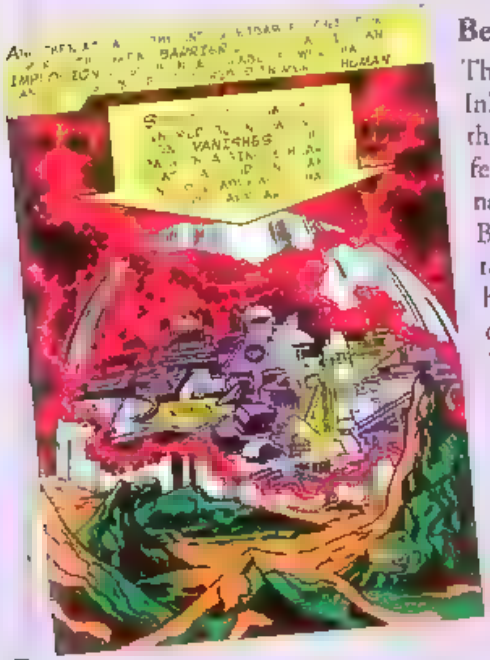
Intending to return sometime in the future to study the results of their experiments, the Kree went back to space, leaving the Inhumans to settle on a tiny island in the Northern Atlantic named Attilan. The Inhumans evolved much faster than their human counterparts and soon became an advanced civilization. They studied genetics and discovered a mutagenic substance called the "Terrigen Mist," which gave them fantastic powers. Ordinary humans grew to fear the Inhumans and their powers and frequently attacked them so the Inhumans tried to avoid humanity and eventually moved Attilan to the Himalayas.

GENETIC ENGINEERING

Using the genetic technology left by the Kree, the Inhumans were able to control the way their species evolved. Many different types of Inhumans were created—in different shapes and sizes, with unique super-powers.

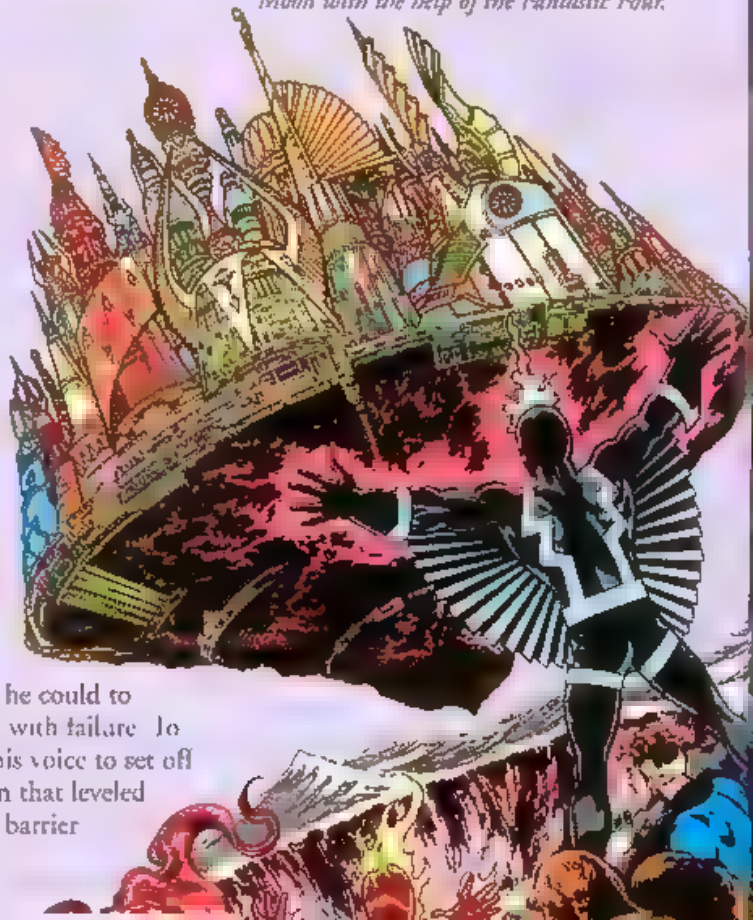
TO THE MOON

After learning that pollution was making his people sick, Black Bolt later moved Attilan from the Himalayas to the Blue Area of the Moon with the help of the Fantastic Four.



Beware the hidden land

The Fantastic Four first met the Inhumans in New York City where they were hiding, and Johnny Storm fell in love with an Inhuman named Crystal. The FF later helped Black Bolt, ruler of the Inhumans, to regain his throne and prevented his brother, Maximus, from destroying humanity. Undaunted by his defeat, Maximus surrounded Attilan with an unbreakable sphere that prevented contact with the outside world. Separated from Crystal, the Torch did everything he could to penetrate the shield but only met with failure. To free his people, Black Bolt used his voice to set off a cataclysmic sonic chain reaction that leveled the entire city as it shattered the barrier.



Black Bolt

The ruler of the Inhumans, Black Bolt, possesses super-strength and can soar like an eagle. The fork-shaped antenna on his forehead allows him to collect electrons from the air and use them to increase his strength and speed. Unfortunately, Black Bolt must not speak because his voice triggers sonic shockwaves. Even a whisper could demolish an entire city block.

THE ROYAL FAMILY

The royal family of the Inhumans includes Black Bolt's cousins Karnak, Triton, and Gorgon, his wife, Medusa, and her sister, Crystal.

Crystal unleashes her powers.

GORGON

Gorgon's legs can generate powerful seismic tremors.

TRITON

Triton is an amphibian with superhuman strength.

KARNAK

Karnak can sense an object's weakest point, enabling him to shatter the object with a single blow.

CRYSTAL

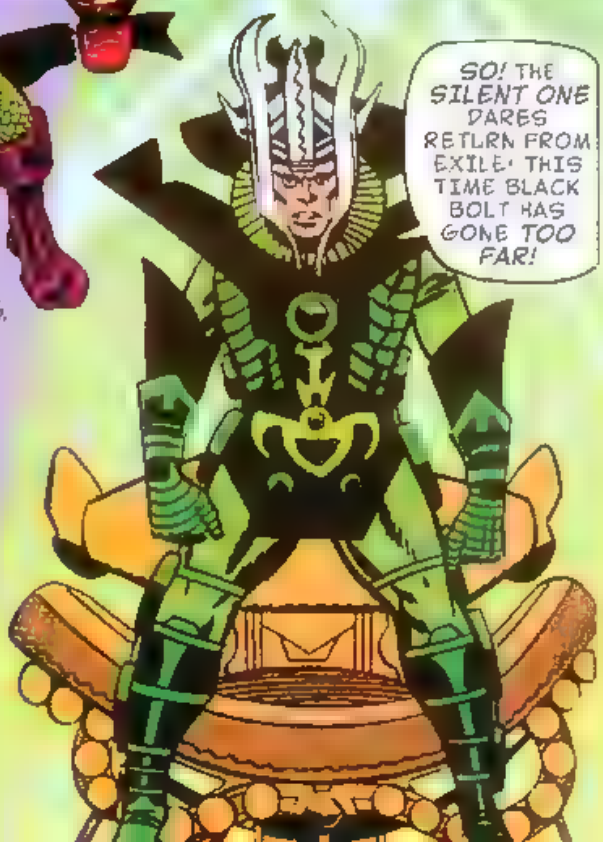
Crystal can mentally manipulate the four basic elements: fire, water, earth, and air.

LOCKJAW

Crystal's pet and faithful companion, Lockjaw, can teleport himself and anything near him to wherever he wants to go. He is extremely strong and has super-powerful jaws.

Maximus the Mad

Maximus has always been jealous of his older brother, Black Bolt, and has often tried to steal his throne. Thinking the Kree might help him, Maximus once tried to make an alliance with them but Black Bolt put a stop to his plans. Maximus hates the human race and has repeatedly tried to destroy mankind. He secretly loves Medusa and staged his first successful civil war during the time when she had amnesia and Black Bolt was out searching for her. Though he was later overthrown, Maximus has never stopped trying to replace his brother. Maximus also has latent psionic powers, but his mental instability often prevents him from using them. When his powers are operating at peak efficiency, he can control the minds of others and force everyone within his general area to obey his mental commands. He can also blank a person's mind and give them a brief case of amnesia.



Galactus and Silver Surfer

BEFORE THE BIRTH of the present universe, there was another universe, and the being known as Galactus is its only survivor. Galen was born on a world named Taa, and he knew that his universe was dying. It was collapsing toward a central point called the "Cosmic Egg." It was also releasing lethal radiation that exterminated entire civilizations. Realizing that there was no way to save Taa, Galen decided to drive his starship directly into the heart of the "Cosmic Egg," but instead of serving as his funeral pyre, it somehow absorbed Galen into itself. After an undetermined amount of time, the "Cosmic Egg" underwent the "Big Bang" that created the current universe, and Galen was reborn. He was now Galactus, a creature with incalculable power and a never-ending hunger for energy.

The devourer of worlds

Galactus needs a particular type of energy that can only be found on certain worlds, and he must consume the entire planet to obtain it. He has traveled across the current universe for many millennia, constantly searching for worlds to devour. Galactus possesses cosmic power on an unimaginable scale. He can reconstruct matter and project an energy blast powerful enough to shatter a medium sized planet. He can instantly teleport objects across the galaxy and erect invincible force fields. His base of operations is a space station that is as big as an entire solar system. Though Galactus destroys entire planets and has doomed countless civilizations, he considers himself to be far beyond conventional definitions of "good" or "evil."

Sentinel of the Spaceways

The people of Zenn-La lived in a virtual paradise. War, crime, disease, and poverty had been eliminated long ago. No one had to work, and everything was free. Everyone seemed happy . . . except for Norrin Radd. He hungered for adventure and yearned to explore the universe. He got his wish the day the planet-wide warning system detected an alien spacecraft headed toward Zenn-La—Galactus had come to feed. After the planet's defense system failed to drive off the invader, Norrin Radd borrowed a starship and made an offer to Galactus. If he would spare Zenn-La, Norrin agreed to serve Galactus and seek new worlds for him to devour. Galactus gave some of his cosmic power to Norrin Radd and covered Norrin's body with an indestructible silver coating. Galactus also gave his new herald a unique device that resembled an earthly surfboard so that Norrin could travel through space. Thus was born the Silver Surfer.

Though he was buried with his Zenn-La bride Shalla Bal, she was the great love of Norrin Radd's life.

Befriended by Alicia Masters and impressed by her dignity and compassion, the Surfer is able to save the Earth from Galactus. No matter how far he roams, the Silver Surfer will keep a watchful eye on the Earth. He constantly monitors it, seeking to

IF THIS BE DOOMSDAY

The Silver Surfer served Galactus faithfully for many years. While searching for a suitable planet the Surfer noticed a mass of space debris and discovered that Uatu the Watcher had erected a rocky barrier to conceal the Earth. After signaling Galactus, the Surfer met Alicia Masters, who convinced him that the human race deserved to survive. The Surfer begged Galactus to leave the Earth, and when he refused, the Surfer defied Galactus and joined the battle against him. After yielding to Mr. Fantastic and the Ultimate Nullifier, Galactus punished his former herald by erecting an energy barrier that imprisoned the Surfer on Earth.

BEYOND THE BARRIER

After exile on Earth, the Surfer breached the barrier and was free to roam the cosmos once again. He returned to Zenn-La and warned that Galactus had punished the planet for his betrayal. He granted Shalla Bal a portion of his cosmic power and left her to restore Zenn-La to its former glory.

Black Panther T'Challa

The Black Panther's contemporary title bestowed on the reigning king of Wakanda

IN HIS attempt to steal precious, energy-absorbing vibranium from the African nation of Wakanda, the evil scientist Ulysses Klaw murdered T'Chaka, the Wakandan chieftain. The ruler's young son, T'Challa, drove Klaw from his lands and became the new king. Educated in the finest schools in Europe and America, he studied physics and became a brilliant inventor. After returning to his homeland, T'Challa resumed his royal duties and donned the mantle of the Black Panther, sacred totem of his people.

Beloved Wakanda

Though he has often allied himself with the Fantastic Four and the Avengers, the Black Panther gives the people of Wakanda his highest priority. T'Challa has faced rivals to his throne, attempts to steal his country's wealth, and invasion threats, but he has defeated them all.

IDOL WORSHIP

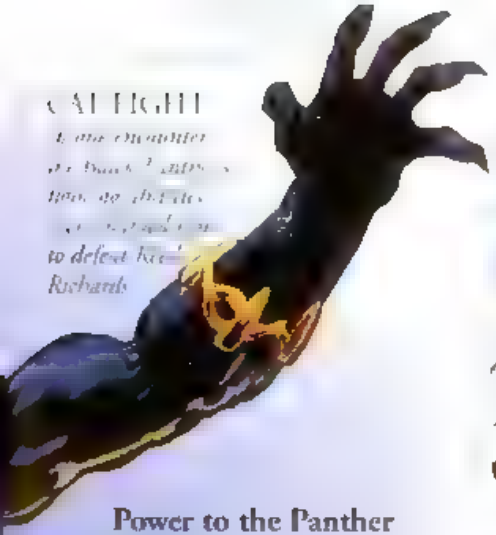
Once worshiped as a god the panther is still a sacred animal to all Wakandans.

The greatest game

T'Challa once invited the FF to Wakanda to join him on a hunt but neglected to say that they would be the prey! He led them FF into different traps to test the limits of their capabilities and to hone his own fighting skills. After the FF escaped these traps, he held a feast for his guests in their honor.

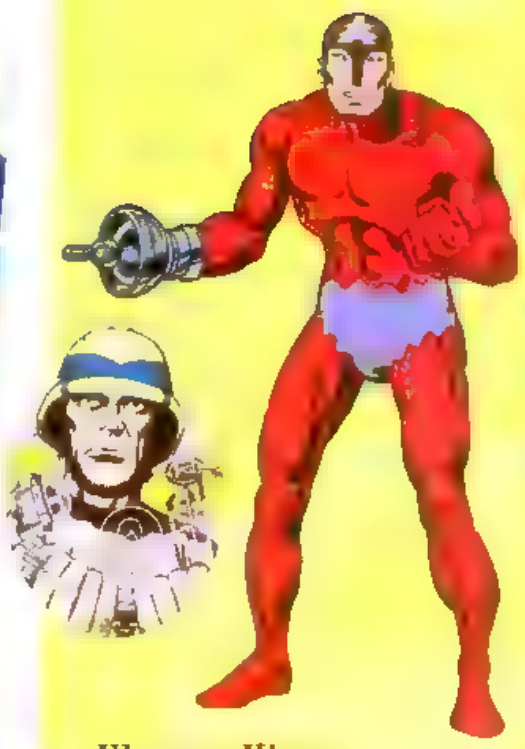
Cat costume

The Black Panther's costume incorporates thin strands of vibranium, expertly woven into the fabric. The energy-absorbing metal causes objects to lose their momentum on contact, making bullets drop to the ground and punches lose their force. The boots of the costume are also constructed from vibranium, making it possible for T'Challa to land on his feet from great heights without harm. His natural night vision is greatly enhanced by special lenses built into the costume, and the fingers of his gloves can expel sleeping gas.



Power to the Panther

Although he doesn't possess any superhuman powers, the Black Panther has the strength and speed of the most gifted Olympic athletes. He is also a highly skilled gymnast and acrobat. Thanks to a special heart-shaped herb found only in Wakanda, his five senses are highly enhanced. He has particularly keen eyesight and night vision T'Challa is also an accomplished hunter, who can track a quarry across almost any jungle or city terrain. His unique fighting style employs various martial arts along with acrobatics and a number of catlike actions, positions, and blows



Ulysses Klaw

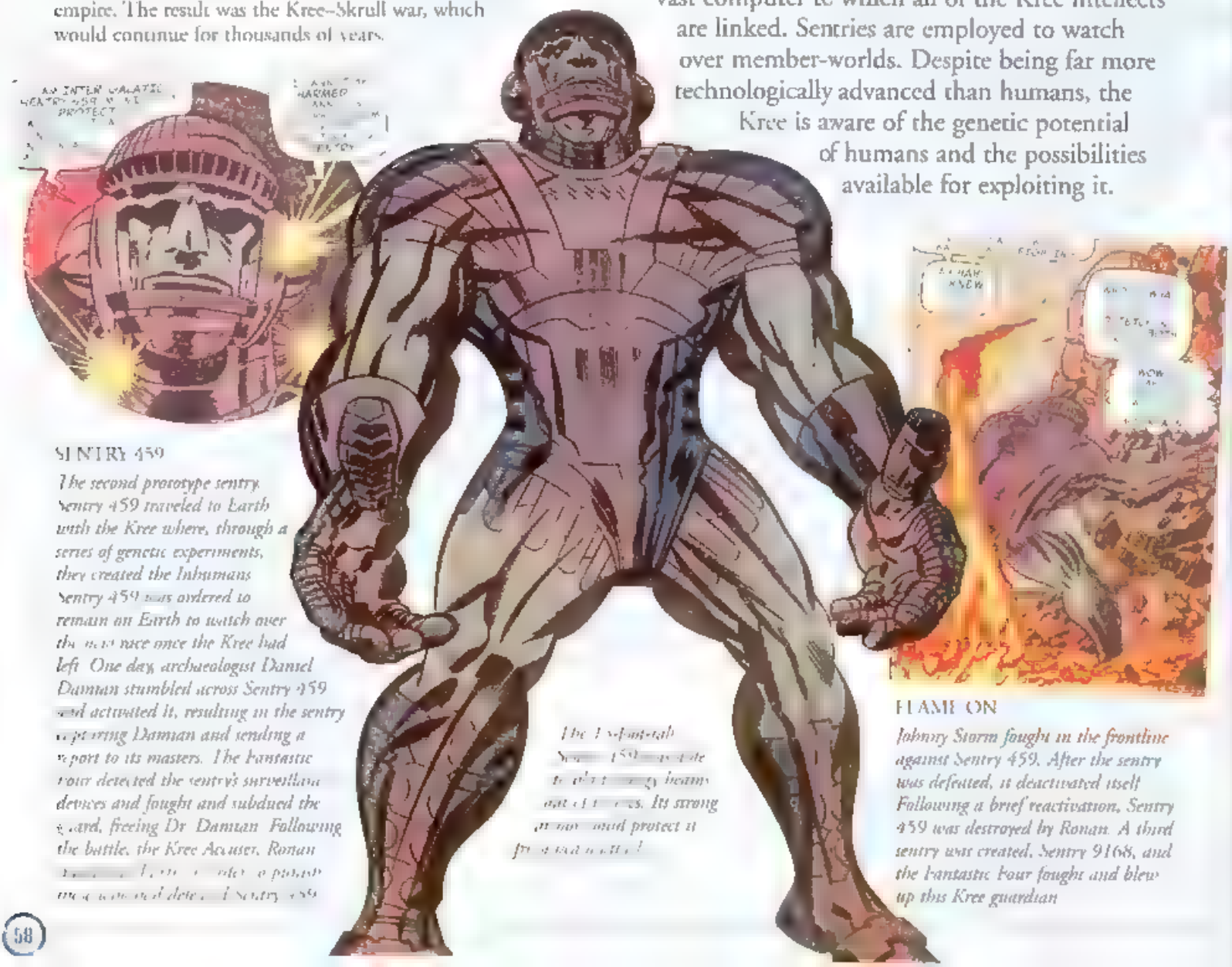
When the scientist Ulysses Klaw [illegible] he [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Kree Sentry and Ronan

Kree–Skrull war

Millions of years ago, the Skrulls landed on the planet Hala, where they found the Kree race and the Cotati race, a group of plantlike entities. The Skrulls sent both races to a barren planetoid to see which group would be worthy of becoming a part of the Skrull empire. Based on the environments each race created, the Skrulls decided that the Cotati were worthiest. In anger, the Kree attacked the Skrull ship. Becoming masters of Skrull technology, the Kree then attacked the Skrull empire. The result was the Kree–Skrull war, which would continue for thousands of years.

AN EXTRATERRESTRIAL race, the Kree occupy the Greater Magellanic Cloud. This humanoid race created an empire using knowledge acquired from Skrull technology and made the planet of Kree-Lar their capital. Their blue or pink bodies are adapted to conditions on Hala, their planet of origin. However, in order to visit Earth, they don special apparatus that allows them to breathe Earth's atmosphere, and their dense bodies mean that they are twice as strong as the average human. They are ruled by Supreme Intelligence, a vast computer to which all of the Kree intellects are linked. Sentries are employed to watch over member-worlds. Despite being far more technologically advanced than humans, the Kree is aware of the genetic potential of humans and the possibilities available for exploiting it.



SENTRY 459

The second prototype sentry, Sentry 459 traveled to Earth with the Kree where, through a series of genetic experiments, they created the Inhumans. Sentry 459 was ordered to remain on Earth to watch over the new race once the Kree had left. One day, archaeologist Daniel Damian stumbled across Sentry 459 and activated it, resulting in the sentry capturing Damian and sending a report to its masters. The Fantastic Four detected the sentry's surveillance devices and fought and subdued the guard, freeing Dr. Damian. Following the battle, the Kree Accuser, Ronan [illegible] a powerful [illegible] and destroyed Sentry 459.

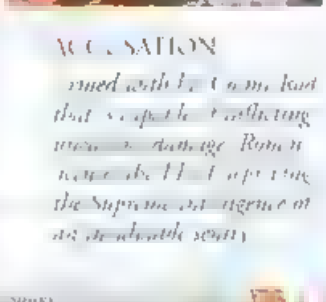
The Fantastic Four fought Sentry 459 [illegible] energy beams and [illegible]. Its strong armor could protect it from [illegible]

FLAME ON

Johnny Storm fought in the frontline against Sentry 459. After the sentry was defeated, it deactivated itself. Following a brief reactivation, Sentry 459 was destroyed by Ronan. A third sentry was created, Sentry 9168, and the Fantastic Four fought and blew up this Kree guardian.

Ronan the Accuser

The Accusers are an elite group of Kree government officials who enforce justice throughout the Kree Empire. Ronan was the Supreme Public Accuser. Only the Imperial Minister and Supreme Intelligence were above him. After the defeat of Sentry 459 at the hands of the FF, Ronan journeyed to Earth to exact justice.



ACCUSATION

...ronted with [illegible] ...ence had that [illegible] collecting ...ence damage. Ronan ...ence the [illegible] ...ppressive ...the Supreme Intelligence of ...s underhanded ...eanly.

TEASE: CHANTAST'C

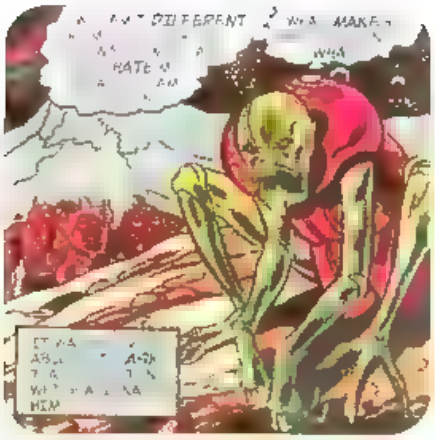
De[illegible] ...as towards ...ough ...ts [illegible] ...ecome by ...on ...ts ...e. The Supreme Intelligence ...ance ...ce for losing the fight ...ance ...s put Earth under ...ence ...ion ...ence ...ing ...ence ...ake ...ence ...ent ...ence ...s ...ace. The danger ...s ...an

Power of intelligence

Believing that the Empire should not be ruled by a non-humanoid entity, Ronan joined with Kree Imperial Minister Zarek to overthrow the Supreme Intelligence. However it found out and imprisoned them. Ronan's allies freed him, and he took control. A Kree–Skrull war broke out, and the Supreme Intelligence regained power. Ronan went mad, but the computer restored Ronan's sanity and allied itself with him again.

Blastaar

The king of planet Baluur in the Negative Zone, Blastaar was a ruthless ruler. His subjects overthrew him and imprisoned him in an [illegible] surrounding him admit in outer space. Blastaar freed himself and followed Reed Richards to Earth. The Fantastic Four locked Blastaar and sent him back to the Negative Zone, where he reclaimed his throne. However he has returned to Earth on many occasions determined to conquer the planet. He was able to shatter the portal between Earth and the Negative Zone so that he can freely move between the two. He has the ability to generate kinetic energy through his fingertips at [illegible] of 1,000 feet. He also uses this skill to propel himself like a rocket.



Annihilus

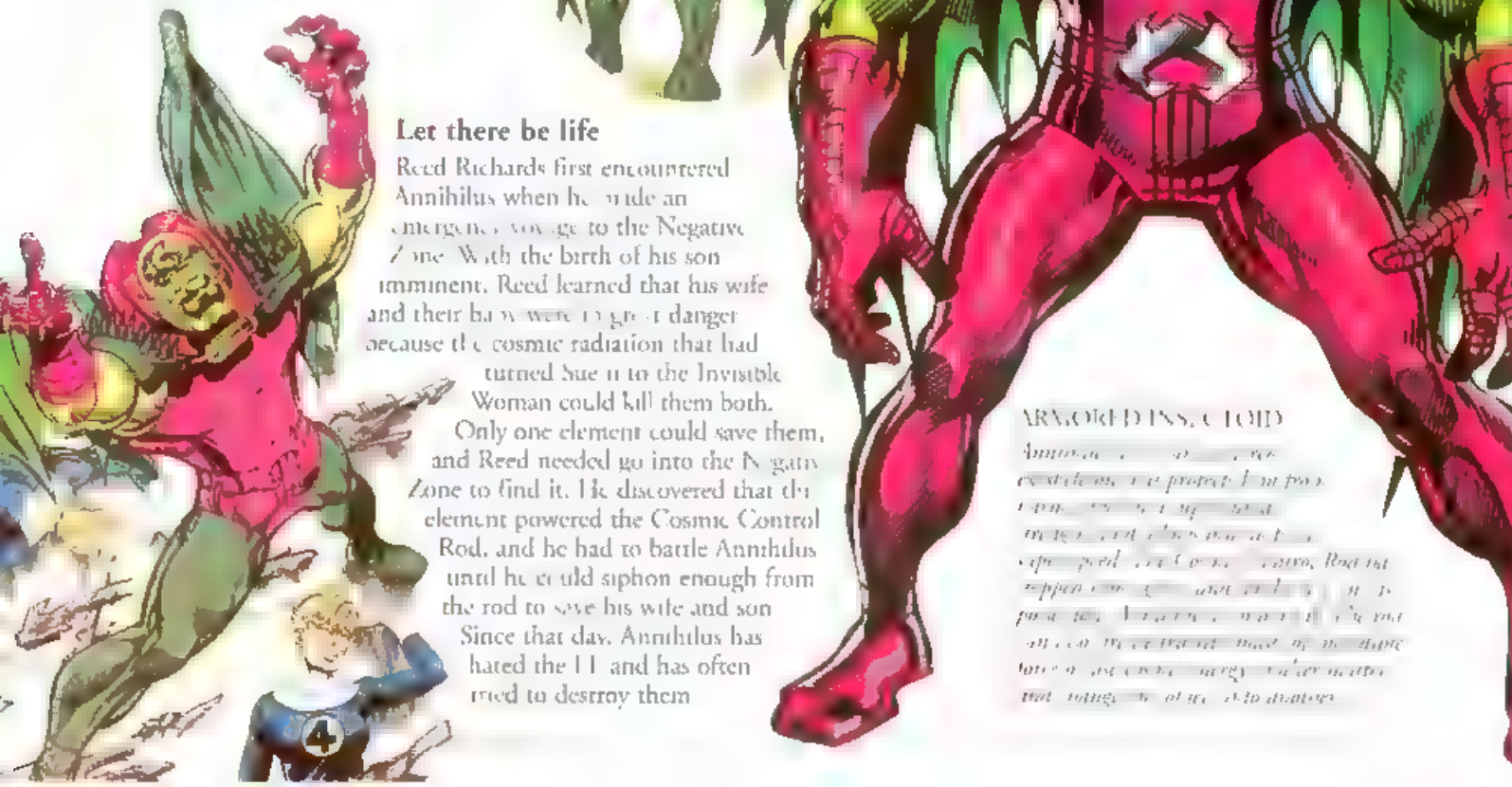
OVER A THOUSAND years ago, an alien race attempted to populate the barren worlds in the alternate dimension known as the Negative Zone. They gathered living spores in canisters of power and sent a spaceship to spread the spores across their universe. The ship crashed on Arthos, a planet full of deadly volcanoes and toxic swamps. Knowing their days were numbered, the aliens released the spores, and some of these evolved into brutal monsters. One named Annihilus was an intelligent, insectlike creature who was often attacked by the others.

PARANOID

Since the Cosmic Control Rod

The living death

Annihilus stumbled upon the spaceship and used the alien technology and canisters of power to build a device called the Cosmic Control Rod. The rod increased his strength and intelligence. He attacked the monsters who had threatened him and set out to conquer the rest of the Negative Zone.



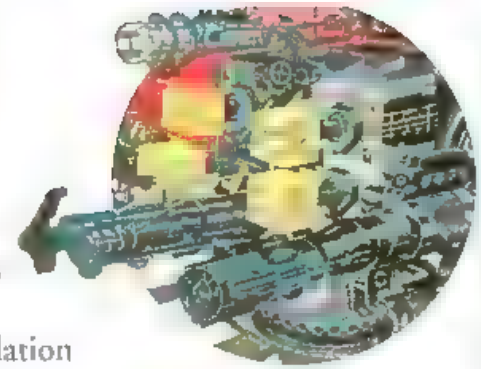
Let there be life

Reed Richards first encountered Annihilus when he made an emergency voyage to the Negative Zone. With the birth of his son imminent, Reed learned that his wife and their baby were in great danger because the cosmic radiation that had turned Sue Storm to the Invisible Woman could kill them both. Only one element could save them, and Reed needed go into the Negative Zone to find it. He discovered that the element powered the Cosmic Control Rod, and he had to battle Annihilus until he could siphon enough from the rod to save his wife and son. Since that day, Annihilus has hated the FF and has often tried to destroy them.

ARMORED INSECTOID

Annihilus's armor protects him

Psycho-Man



MASTER SCIENTIST Psycho-Man rules over Sub-Atomica, a five-planet system within a microscopic universe. When overpopulation threatened the planets, he decided to conquer new worlds and chose the Earth as his first target because its human inhabitants appeared to be particularly susceptible to his highly sophisticated mind-control weapon—the deadly mind-ray.

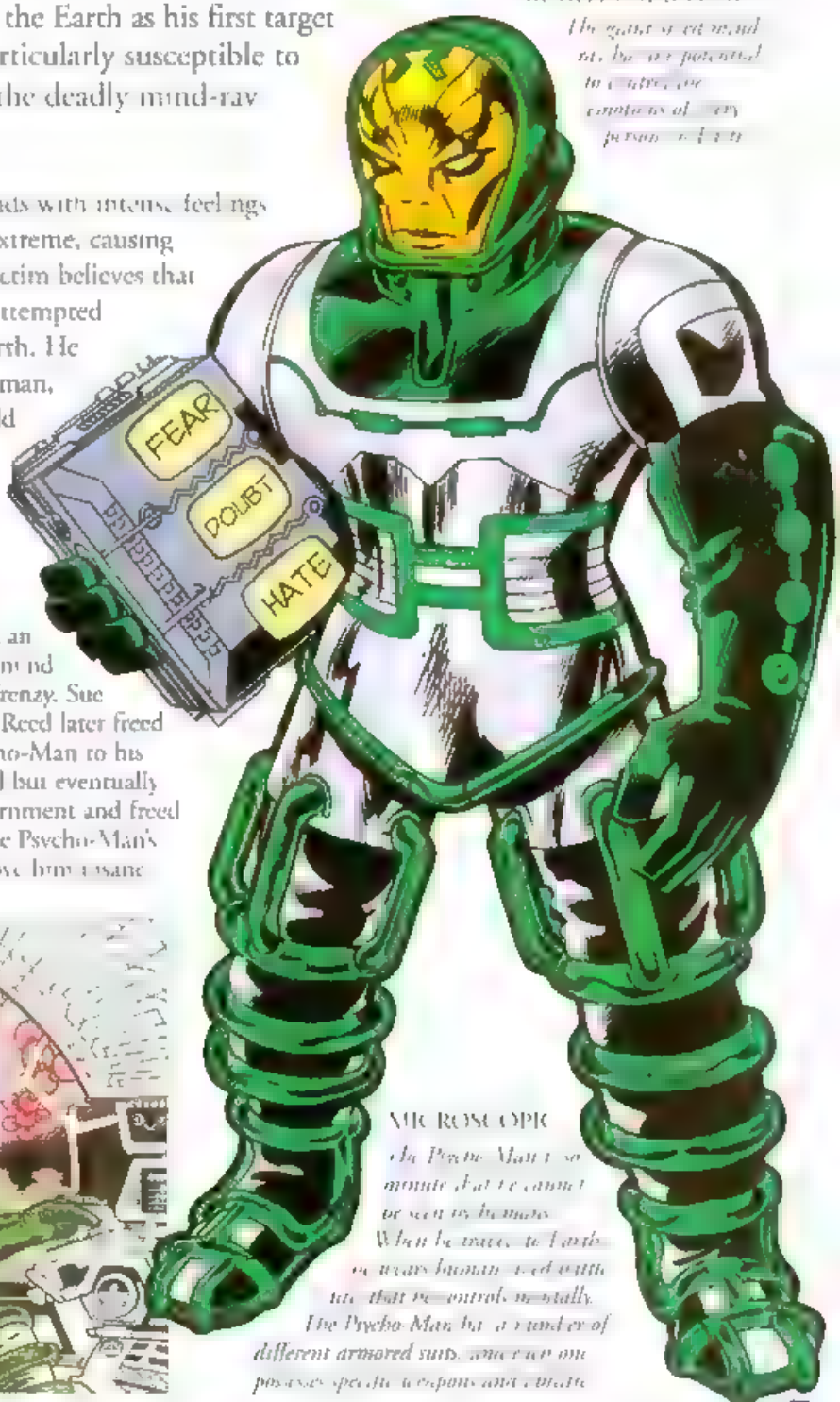
MIGHTY MACHINE
The giant weapon and ray have the potential to control the emotions of every person on Earth.

Divide and conquer

The mind ray targets victims' emotions, filling their minds with intense feelings of fear, doubt, or hate. The intensity of the emotion is extreme, causing hallucinations and even death from fright because the victim believes that their worst fears have become reality. The Psycho-Man attempted to build a giant mind-ray that could affect the entire Earth. He planned to drive everyone crazy and pit human against human, spreading a plague of hate across the world. Before he could finish the machine, the Fantastic Four teamed up with the Black Panther and the Inhumans and forced him to flee back to his microverse.

With malice toward all

Psycho-Man returned to Earth with an android who used the evil scientist's mind ray to whip people into a violent frenzy. Sue Richards fell under its power, but Reed later freed Sue, and the FF persued the Psycho-Man to his microverse. The FF were captured but eventually overthrew the Psycho-Man's government and freed Sub Atomica. Sue later turned the Psycho-Man's mind-ray against him, which drove him insane.



MIC ROSCOPIC
The Psycho-Man's so minute that he cannot be seen by human eyes. When he wants to battle humans, he dons a suit that he controls mentally. The Psycho-Man has a number of different armored suits, and each one possesses specific weapons and attacks.

Him

WITHIN A HIGH TECH secret base known as the "Beehive", four scientists named Dr. Morlak, Dr. Hamilton, Mr. Zota, and Professor Shinksi pursued their dream of world domination. They artificially generated a prototype super being and planned to duplicate it until they had produced enough superhumans to form an invincible army, which they would use to take over the world. However, their heinous plan was ruined when their creation, known as "Him," became more powerful than they imagined possible and turned against its creators, forcing them to seek help from an unlikely person.

The blind sculptress

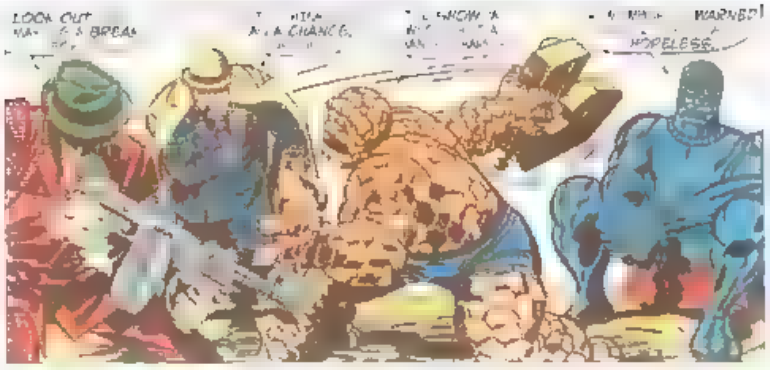
Under a false premise, the scientists recruited Alicia Masters and took her to the Beehive. Their supreme creature emitted such blinding power that human eyes could not see it. Alicia was the perfect candidate to locate it because her unseeing eyes would not be harmed by Him and her renowned ability as a sculptress would allow them to finally see an exact likeness of the creature. Equipped with clay, Alicia embarked on her mission, accompanied by Dr. Hamilton. Within the tunnels below the complex, the pair faced many terrifying obstacles but eventually Him allowed Alicia to approach, sensing that she was good. Alicia found the creature encased within a cocoon—lonely, afraid and about to be "born."

A god in the making

Moments before Him is born, the Fantastic Four arrive to rescue Alicia from the Beehive. The scientists are left anxiously waiting for their creation to emerge from its cocoon, believing it to be some kind of monster. Him appears as a highly evolved human and confronts his creators because he knows of their evil intentions. Determined not to allow the scientists to use him for ill-purposes, Him summons an enormous amount of energy and escapes, destroying the Beehive in the process.

Torgo

On the planet Kral, all the Skrull inhabitants assume the appearance of Prohibition Era gangsters



SUPREME WARRIOR Torgo was kidnapped from his home planet of Mekka and taken to Kral, where he was forced to fight as a gladiator in the Great Games by Skrull crime boss Lippy Louie. As a mechanical life-form, Torgo possessed immense strength and so remained unbeaten in the gladiatorial arena for some time. This prompted Louie's rival, Boss Barker, to pay a huge sum to have the Thing captured and brought to Kral in the hope that the orange-skinned fighter would finally defeat Torgo.

When he Torgo was taken to the gladiatorial holding pen to await his battle, he tried to retaliate against the Skrulls, but Torgo soon met that resistance was futile. A deadly "sonic" weapon called the Sonic Disruptor was trained upon the home planet. Each of the slaves—ready to be fired if they refused to fight

Clash of the titans

The battle between the Thing and Torgo was evenly matched. Although the Thing was less experienced in using Skrull weapons, he eventually subdued Torgo. However, he showed mercy toward his foe and let him go. Torgo then managed to overpower the Thing, but he, too refused to kill his opponent. The Skrulls threatened to destroy Mekka if Torgo did not comply, but luckily the Fantastic Four arrived in time to stop the fight.

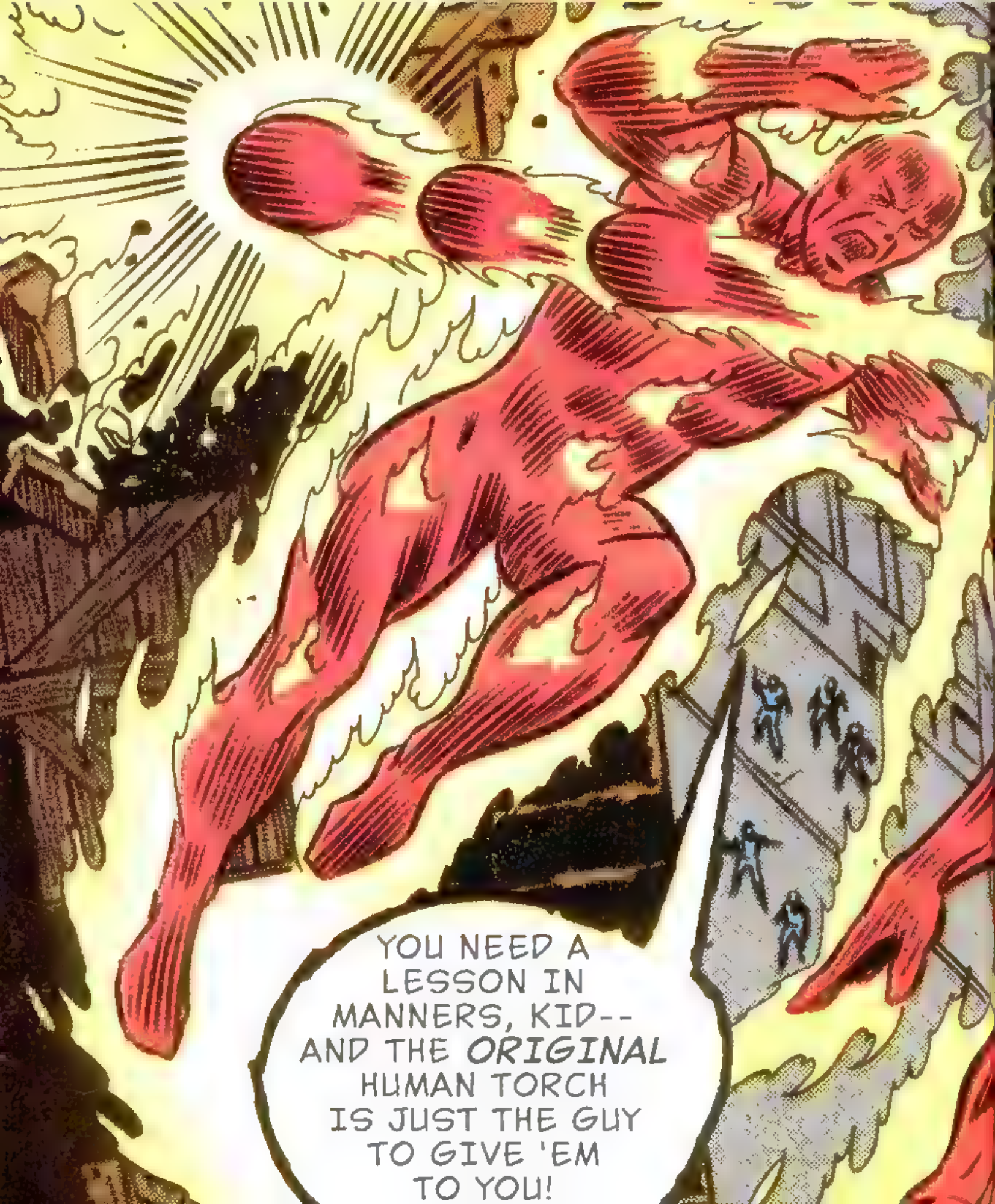
A slave revolution

The Human Torch destroyed the Skrulls' Sonic Disruptor, and once Mekka was no longer under threat, Torgo led a revolt. The gladiators removed the slave collars that had rendered them helpless for so long and turned against their former masters.

Torgo's weapon of choice was the battle axe

MISSION TO MEKKA

On a mission to find a cure that will [illegible] Reed Richards travels to Mekka, where they [illegible]


YOU NEED A LESSON IN MANNERS, KID-- AND THE *ORIGINAL* HUMAN TORCH IS JUST THE GUY TO GIVE 'EM TO YOU!

GET BACK IN YOUR HISTORY-BOOKS, ANDROID! YOU'VE *HAD* IT!

The Fantastic Four in the 1970s

Stan Lee and Jack Kirby celebrated the Fantastic Four's second decade by introducing Agatha Harkness and bringing back the Frightful Four. The Mad Thinker later attacked the FF with his Androids of Death, and the team ran into the Monster from the Lost Lagoon. All good things come to an end, and Jack Kirby left *Fantastic Four* with #102, although an issue that he had partially completed was published about six months later. Artist Joan Romita took over in the middle of a storyline that featured the Sub-Mariner and Magneto, who normally battled the uncanny X-Men. Romita was followed by John Buscema, Rich Buckler, George Perez, Keith Pollard, and John Byrne. Joe Sinnott, who became Kirby's regular inker with *Fantastic Four* #44, embellished almost every issue in this decade. After a few issues written by Archie Goodwin, Stan Lee turned the FF over to Roy Thomas. Roy replaced Ben Grimm temporarily with Luke Cage and reinstated the Impossible Man after a 12-year absence. Roy was followed by writers Gerry Conway, Tony Isabella, Len Wein, Bill Mantlo, and Marv Wolfman. As the FF grew more popular, Marvel published additional FF-related titles. *Marvel Team-Up* was introduced as a title that would regularly feature Spider-Man and the Human Torch. After a tryout in *Marvel Feature* #11, the Thing began a 100 issue run in *Marvel Two-In One*. In 1978, the FF got its own animated TV show, with storyboards produced by Jack Kirby and scripts by Roy Thomas.

Fantastic Four #71 (Sept. 1968) The Inhumans get their own title. Cover by Sal Buscema.

Fantastic Four #102 (Early 1970) The FF celebrate 100 issues by fighting all of their foes, including the Mad Thinker and the Puppet Master. Cover by Jack Kirby.

1970

Fantastic Four #104 (Nov. 1970) The FF battle Magneto. Cover by John Romita.

1971

Fantastic Four #113 (Aug. 1971) The FF fight the Over-Mind. Cover by John Buscema.

1972

Fantastic Four #129 (Dec. 1972) The Frightful Four meets Thundra. Cover by John Buscema.

1973

Fantastic Four #131 (Feb. 1973) Johnny has girlfriend trouble. Cover by John Buscema and Sal Buscema.

FANTASTIC FOUR
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
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THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!
FANTASTIC FOUR
LET'S GO, CAGE! YOU'RE ONE OF US NOW!!
YOU KNOW I TORCH!
FOR YEARS, I'VE WANTED TO BE JUST PLAIN BEN GRIMM--NOT THE THING!
BUT NOW THAT I AM, I'VE BEEN--
--REPLACED BY POWER MAN!

Fantastic Four #168 (Mar. 1976)
Reed Richards resigns as the Fantastic Four
Cover by George Perez and Joe Sinnott

Fantastic Four #168 (Mar. 1976)
Ben Grimm replaced by Luke Cage, Power Man
Cover by Rich Buckler and Joe Sinnott

1974

Giant-Size Super-Stars #1 (May 1974)
The Fantastic Four meet the Inhumans

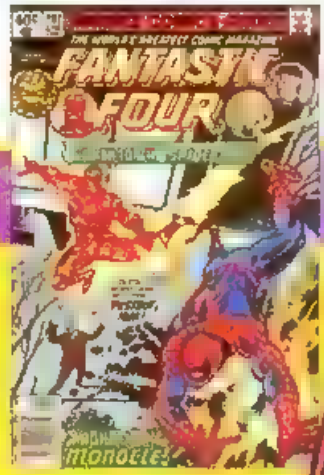
1976

Fantastic Four #176 (Aug. 1976)
The F.F. meet super-guilty Ben Grimm

1978

Fantastic Four #206 (Nov. 1978)
Reed reverts to Mr. Fantastic

1979



Fantastic Four #217 (Aug. 1979)
Encounter Spider-Man

SELF CONTROL
By activating his control module, Nega-Man could fire powerful blasts that were strong enough to knock the Thing out and release tranquilizer mist that would make people unconscious. He traveled in a gyroscopic aircraft that doubled as a battering ram

Janus the Nega-Man

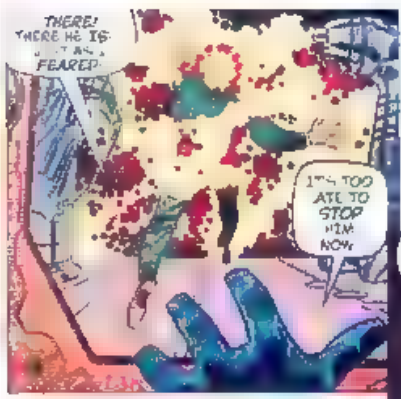
A SCIENCE MAJOR at college with Reed Richards, Janus started to use his scientific knowledge for negative effect. He was preoccupied with finding a new source of energy, and, when he came across Nega-Power, tried to encourage Reed to help him harness the energy. Reed warned his friend of the dangers if he pursued this negative source but Janus would not listen. Exposed to Nega-Power, Janus split in two—Janus and the Nega-Man, potential master of the world.

YOU WENT ON TO OTHER THINGS--
--BUT I NEVER GAVE UP
THEN, ONE DAY... THE VERY POWER I HAD SOUGHT CHANGED ME... TURNED ME INTO... THE ULTIMATE SCHIZOPHRENIC!
IT'S LIKE THE END OF JEKYLL AND HYDE COME TO LIFE.

MIRROR IMAGE
Negative energy overtook Janus, and Nega-Man was born. He was the physical manifestation of all that was evil within Janus

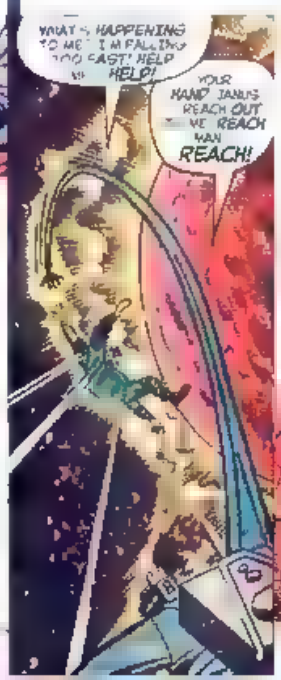
Dominating force

The Nega-Man overpowered Janus and began his bid to rule the world. He robbed a bank but was confronted by the Fantastic Four. The Thing and the Human Torch tried to stop him, while Janus called on Reed for help. Reed made the link between his friend and the Nega-Man and stopped the evil one from using his control module that harnessed negative energy. Janus shot the Nega-Man, and he faded away.



Through the portal

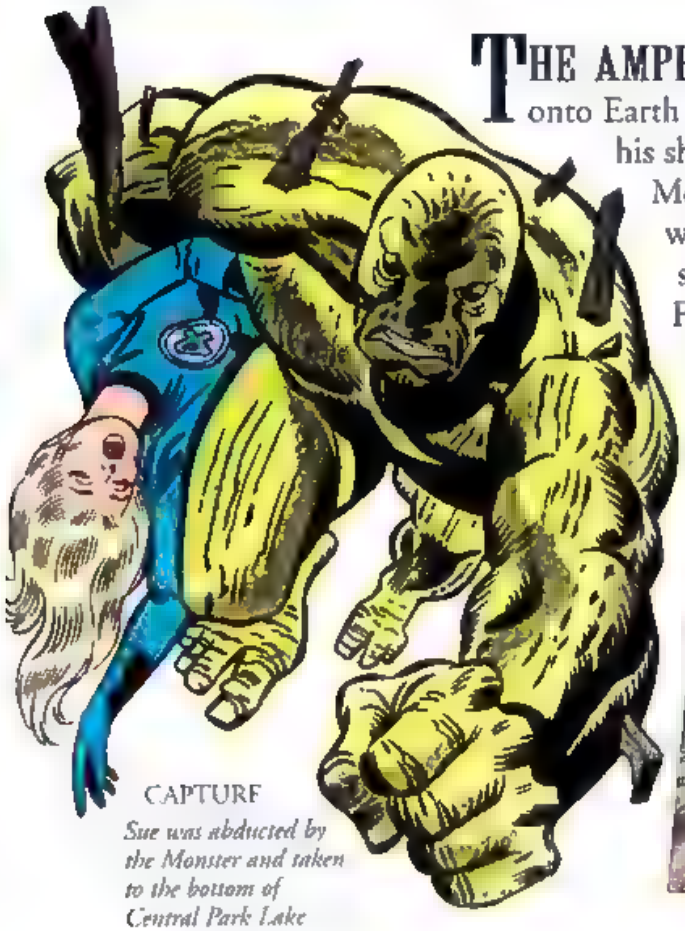
Janus had not learnt his lesson. He gave himself up to the dark urges and became Nega-Man completely. As Janus, he convinced Reed to show him where the portal to the Negative Zone was. In the Distortion Area, he met Annihilus—with explosive results.



Out of the world

The Nega-Man agreed to take Annihilus back to the portal in exchange for help to get more Nega-Power. He killed two of Annihilus's servants, but one servant pushed the Nega-Man into the Exploding Atmosphere. Reed could not save him. Janus survived but was later killed trying to get more Nega-Power.

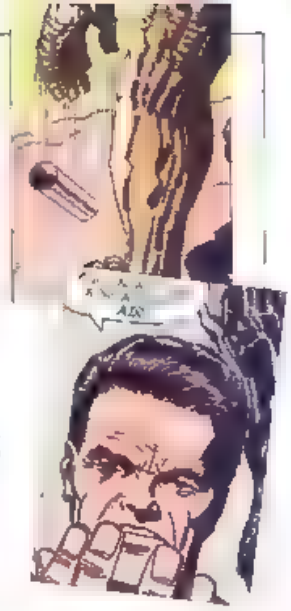
Monster from the Lost Lagoon



CAPTURE
Sue was abducted by the Monster and taken to the bottom of Central Park Lake

THE AMPHIBIOUS Monster and his mate crashed onto Earth deep into the Lost Lagoon. Needing to repair his ship and replace his supply of water, the Monster transformed himself into a human, worked at the Seaquarium, and began attacking ships that came near the lagoon. The Fantastic Four heard of the attacks and boarded their Air-Sea Cruiser. Adopting his human form, the Monster offered to guide the FF through the caves. Once they had traveled deep down into the lagoon, the Monster attacked the FF and fled Earth.

BECAUSE WHEN THEY WERE LAST HERE, AN EARTH VIRUS HAD INFECTED HER... AND ONLY AN EARTH MEDICATION COULD CURE HER
TO HELP THEM- TO ADMINISTER THE MEDICINE



TRANSFORM
The Monster drinks a potion that makes him human. He can understand English but cannot speak it.

Happy ending

The Monster's mate contracted a terrestrial virus so they were forced to return to Earth to get treatment. The Monster proceeded to abduct Sue Richards. In a bid to escape, she flooded the cavern she was being held in, but the Monster saved her. The Monster said that he needed her help to administer the medication to his mate. Sue helped him, and the Monster and his mate returned to their home planet.

Monocle

SKILLED IN espionage, Monocle used his eyeglass to mesmerize his victims. He also had a camera that was able to blast destructive Neutrak Rays. Attending a UN delegation with the aim of starting World War III, Monocle tested his camera on the Fantastic Four, who were at the meeting. Monocle blasted the Fantasticar out of the sky. Sue and Reed fell into a river, and the Thing and the Human Torch began helping those affected by the blast. Monocle now activated his camera on the UN, but it blew up in his hands—Reed had created a reversal ray.

THE TIME HAS ARRIVED! ALL MY PIGEONS ARE UNDER SEDATION IN THEIR LITTLE COOP!
ALL THAT REMAINS IS FOR ME TO SNAP MY ... PICTURE
PRESS

CHEESE
Monocle Man's camera had a powerful Neutrak Ray.

Creating a Storm

Monocle was later employed by the Enclave to help run Security University. Monocle mesmerized student Johnny Storm into stealing weapons secrets from Reed. Spider-Man, who was monitoring the university, told the conscious Johnny what he had been doing. They followed Monocle, and the subsequent chase led to his jet exploding.

Overmind

CREATED BY the Eternals (also known as Eternians) to ensure the survival of their now-extinct race, the Overmind contains the combined mental and physical abilities of a whole civilization. The Eternals chose their greatest warrior, Grom, and imbued him with the mental energy of the entire population. Sent into space, Grom gestated inside a cocoonlike spore for millennia. When he emerged, Grom had transformed into the awesome Overmind. He converted his cocoon into a spacecraft using the power of thought, and set out to continue the Eternals' mission of conquest.

Origin of the Overmind

As the survivors of Gigantus attacked Eternus in retaliation for the destruction of their homeworld, Eternian scientists prepared Grom to receive the collective consciousness and mental power of all Eternus. All over the planet, Eternians entered enormous "synthesizing chambers," where their living brains were converted into pure energy and infused into Grom. Possessing the psionic energy of a billion minds and their shared desire for conquest, Grom became "Overmind" of his entire race. Fired into intergalactic space through an interstellar beaming device, he spent eons learning to control his new powers.

Eternal extinction

A highly advanced race, the Eternals had conquered aging and natural death. Their policy of conquest was a means of population control, as millions of Eternians died in their brutal campaigns. Only one world stood in the way of total Eternian domination—the enormous planet Gigantus. Launching a nuclear attack, the Eternals succeeded only in reducing the planet to huge fragments. The survivors then retaliated, which led to the extinction of the Eternian race and the creation of the Overmind.

MASTER OF DISGUISE

When Overmind first encountered Earthlings, he realized that his fearsome appearance would attract attention. Using his mental powers, he was able to influence the perception of human beings so that he could blend in among them and walk unnoticed through the city streets. The citizens around him were unaware as he began the destruction of the Earth. Only the Fantastic Four knew of his presence, having been forewarned of his plan by the mystical alien entity known as the Watcher. Together, the FF prepared to counter the deadly threat.

Awesome power

The Overmind is invulnerable to heat, cold, energy, electricity, radiation, toxins, and disease. He does not age and can cast powerful kinetic blasts at his enemies. His telekinetic abilities also enable him to move heavy objects at will. Overmind's mental powers allow him to cast illusions into the minds of his enemies, and so manipulate their thoughts and actions.

MIND CONTROL

The Overmind's first plan of attack was to use his mind-manipulation powers to turn Reed Richards against the FF. In a climactic confrontation Mr. Fantastic battled with the Invisible Girl, the Thing, and the Human Torch before leaping from the Baxter Building. Reed was then forced by the Overmind to reveal the FF's plan to defeat him.

GRIMM CAPTIVE

Overmind's mental power is unlocked by Grimm attack.

Air Walker

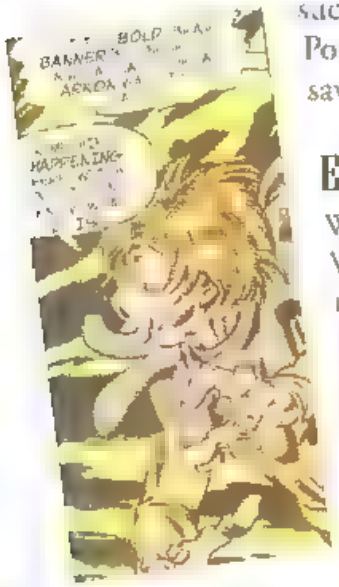
When Galactus required a new herald to replace the Silver Surfer, he chose the Xandarian starship captain Gabriel Lan. While traveling home after a seven-year exploratory mission to contact new alien civilizations, Lan encountered the spherical craft of the galaxy-devourer. Galactus, recognizing Lan's desire for unlimited freedom and power, offered him the chance to become the Surfer's successor. Lan accepted and was transformed into the Air-Walker. He spent many years seeking out new planets to sate his master's vast appetite. Air-Walker eventually sacrificed his life to save Galactus, throwing himself in the path of a blast from weaponry built by the Ovoids, a race that feared his master. In gratitude, Galactus transferred Air-Walker's consciousness into a new robotic body.

A NEW HERALD

Reborn as Air-Walker Lan was granted power over cosmic energy and the ability to travel at hyper-light speeds.

Arkon The Magnificent

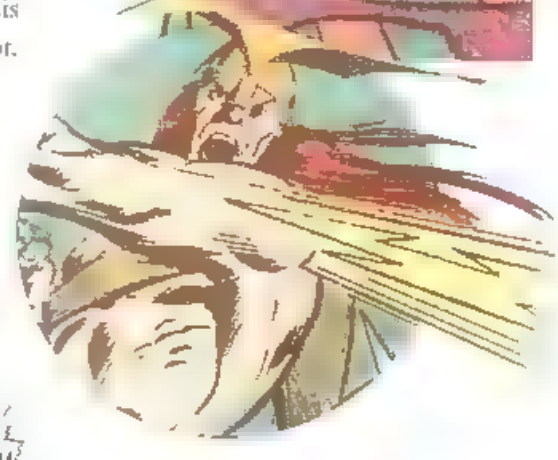
BORN INTO nobility in Polemachtus, an extra-dimensional world, Arkon's future as a great warrior was inevitable. The humanoids of Polemachtus believe that war is the reason for their existence and live for the glory of battle. Named ruler of one of the countries in Polemachtus, Arkon set about conquering the rest of his world. However, his plans for overthrow were halted when it was discovered that the planetary rings that provided Polemachtus with heat and light were collapsing. The only hope to regenerate the rings was to atomically destroy the Earth, with the resultant energy from such an explosion being transported extra dimensionally to Polemachtus. Arkon would do everything in his power to save his world — regardless of the consequences.



Earth bound

Watched by the amphibious Toad, Arkon manipulated the Scarlet Witch to cast a spell on him in order to send him to Earth. Seeing the potential in the witch, Arkon kidnapped her and a group of scientists to help him create an atomic device that he could use on Earth to cause an explosion. But before he could use the device, Iron Man had built a machine that, using Thor's hammer, could reenergize Polemachtus's rings. Arkon briefly abandoned his attack on Earth, but it was not enough for the annihilator. He decided that he wanted more atomic power — fast!

AND WHEN I SPEAK I ET ALL ELSE KEEP SILENCE!!
FOR, I AM HE WHOM YOU YOURSELF HAVE SUMMONED WOMAN, FROM MY WORLD BEYOND ALL WORLDS!
I AM POWER INCARNATE... THE LORD OF WARLORDS FIRST AMONG THE WARRIORS OF A UNIVERSE!
I AM. ARKON THE MAGNIFICENT!!

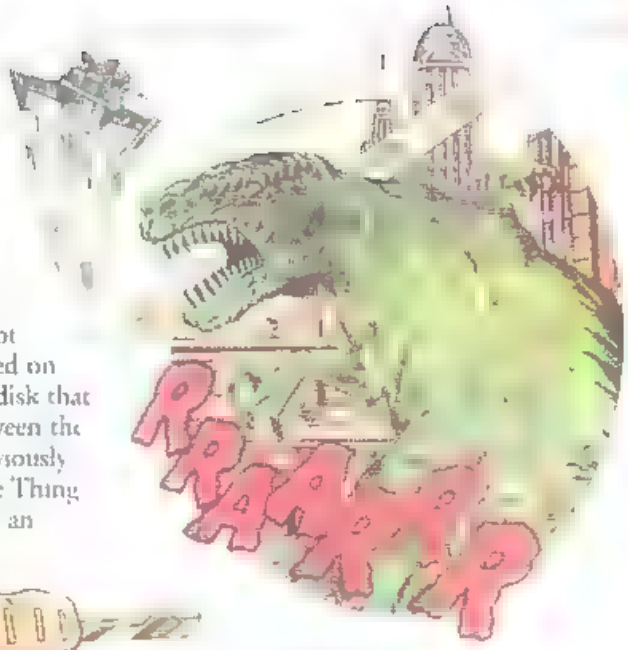


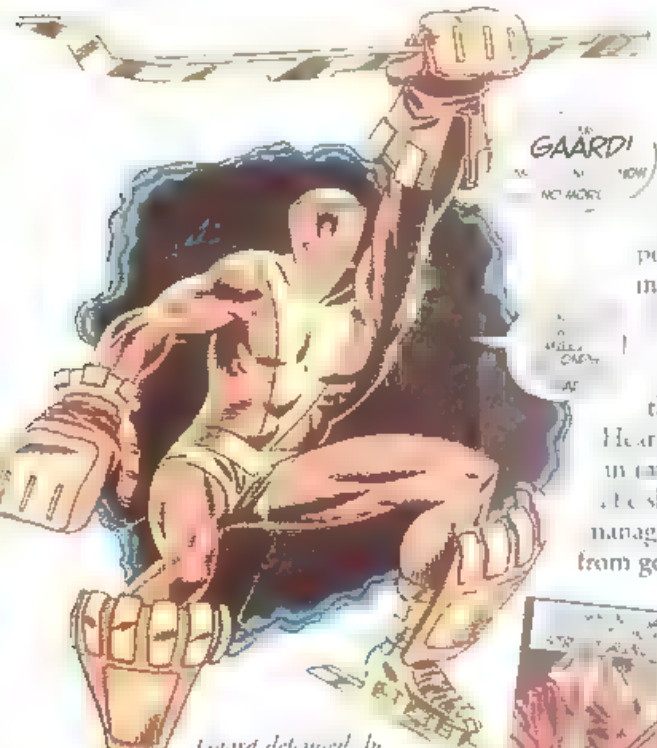
Lightning strikes thrice

Arkon is gifted with superhuman strength, dense skin-and-muscle structure capable of withstanding strong attack, and a rate of recuperation faster than average, but his greatest weapons are his lightning bolts. They are solid until they hit the target, when they turn into pure energy. There are three types: the golden bolt opens portals between worlds, the scarlet bolt creates a force equal to ten pounds of TNT; and the powerful black bolt, or D-Bolt, creates a force equal to 20 tons of TNT and can smash mountains!

Three-dimensional

Arkon planned for Earth-A, the Fifth Dimension, and Earth Prime to fight against each other to provide more energy for Polemachus. The alternate worlds began to merge, and, to everyone's bewilderment, dinosaurs were seen walking in New York City! It was not long before the Fantastic Four arrived on the scene. The Thing brandished a disk that he planned to place in the link between the different worlds to stop Arkon. Obviously prepared to fight Arkon directly, the Thing did not bank on having to confront an agent of Arkon, the skater Gaard.





Gaard detonated his dimensional gateways for his master, Arkon

On Gaard

The super-hockey player Gaard is the Earth-A dimension version of Johnny Storm. In the Earth-A timeline, Johnny was not given super-powers like the others. He was severely injured on the battlefield and was saved by scientists who rebuilt him as an agent of Arkon. When the Thing arrived at the nexus to insert the disk, he was confronted by Gaard. Hearing of this, Reed Richards projected an image of the Thing to distract Gaard as Ben skated full force ahead. The Thing managed to insert the disk and stop Arkon from getting the explosive ending he desired.

Ironically, the Thing was forced to fight Johnny Storm, though Johnny was in the guise of Gaard. Using his skates to steer through space, Gaard was also given a Cosmic Sceptre, which fired dangerous electronblasts and was an effective deflector of enemies, so long as they were not mere projections!

Darkoth

Desmond Pitt was a US Air Force major when he befriended Ben Grimm. The strength of their friendship was demonstrated when Pitt saved Ben from a potentially fatal plane crash. Pitt was involved in a solar shuttle development project that was infiltrated by Victor Von Doom. Pretending to be Doom's ally Pitt discovered that the Latverian monarch wanted to use the solar energy for his own country. Eventually, Doom realized Pitt's ruse and replaced his skeleton with steel, mutating him into Darkoth the Death Demon. Using a vibration device, Doom wiped Pitt's memory and made him believe that he was a demon brought to be Doom's warrior. The diabolic creature has fought for and against the Fantastic Four, as he struggles with his role as Doom's pawn.

Darkoth's talons can slice through any material, most notably the Thing's rocky hide.

Thundra

A PRODUCT OF genetic engineering from an alternate-Earth future, Thundra is the most powerful warrior in a world where women are the dominant gender. In this future, the Earth is called Femizonia, and men are systematically oppressed by females, who see them as a threat to the survival of the species. Warriors from Machus, a separate, violent, male-dominated alternate-Earth future, have crossed over the dimensional gap into Femizonia, inciting rebellion in the male population. In a bid to eliminate the very existence of Machus by establishing female superiority once and for all, Thundra was chosen to travel back in time to the present to seek out and defeat the Earth's most powerful man.

Frightful allies

When she arrived on present-day Earth, Thundra initially joined the Frightful Four to assist them in their attempt to acquire the FF's technology. Motivated by the opportunity to fulfil her mission by battling with Ben Grimm, one of the world's most powerful men, she was eager to take on the Fantastic Four. In her first battle against the Thing, she managed to wrap a chain around him and swing the rocky giant into the ground, incapacitating him. Thundra eventually turned against the Frightful Four when she realized the Wizard and his cohorts were prepared to harm Sue Richards' son Franklin in order to achieve their aims. The Femizon subsequently battled against the Thing on numerous occasions, eventually developing strong feelings for her orange-skinned adversary.

FALLEN HERO

Catching Ben Grimm off guard, Thundra managed to beat the Thing in their first encounter. It was to be the first of many such battles.

SUPREME WARRIOR

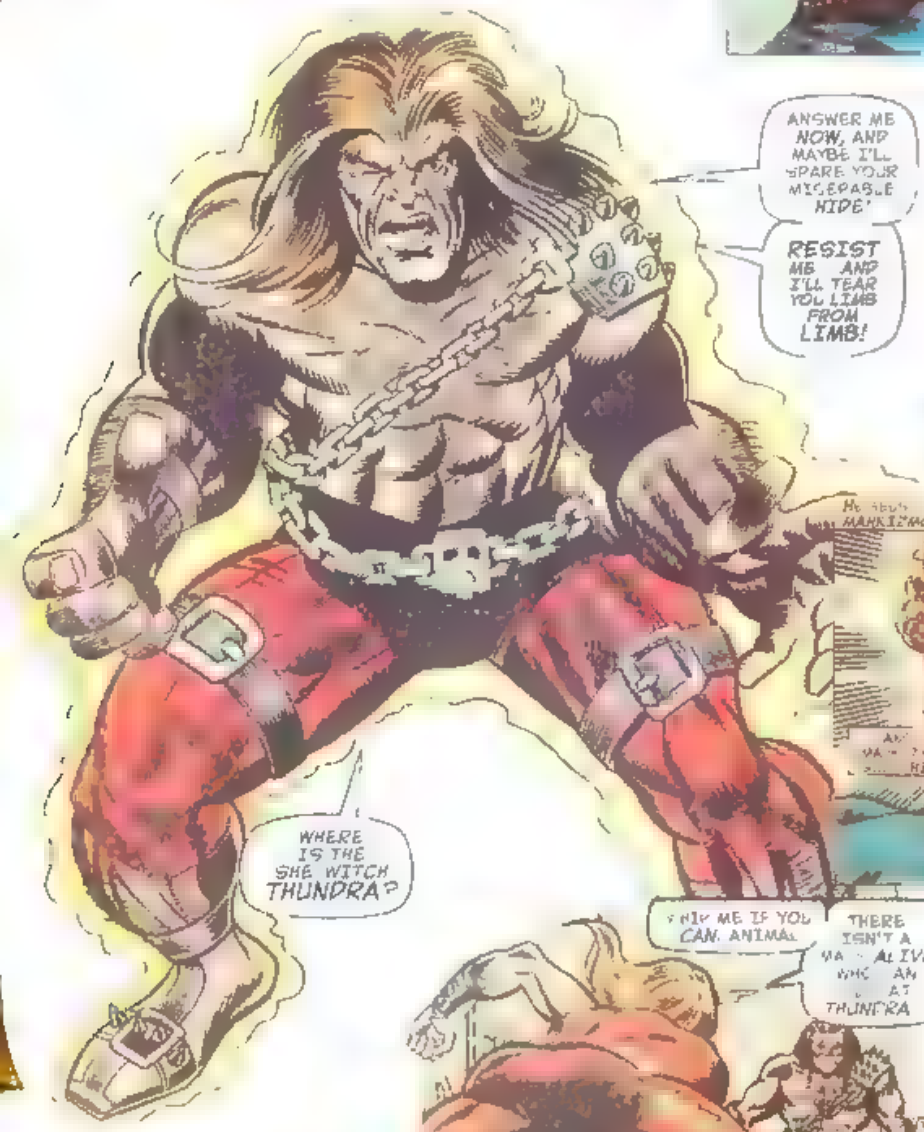
A martial-arts expert, Thundra is also [illegible] military leadership. Her weapon of choice is a [illegible] and deadly precision.

Fight of the century

On one occasion, Thundra battled the Thing at Shea Stadium on New Year's Eve. In the presence of many newspaper journalists and television crews and a referee appointed by the city Mayor the show was billed as the "Fight of the Century". The fight was a sellout, with odds being taken on the victor. Believing herself to be stronger than any man, Thundra was determined to prove her superiority in public. However, the crowds were disappointed when the two combatants eventually decided to leave the stadium to settle the fight privately elsewhere.

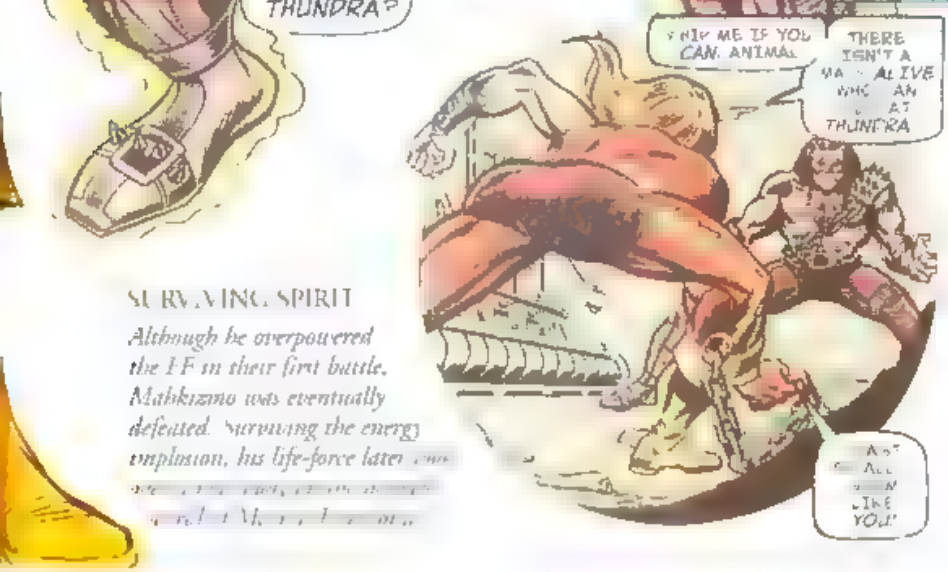
BATTLE OF EQUALS

Thundra's frequent battles with the Thing usually ended in stalemate. She also came to realize that her actions on present-day Earth would not prevent the creation of Machus.


ANSWER ME NOW, AND MAYBE I'LL SPARE YOUR MISERABLE HIDE!
RESIST ME AND I'LL TEAR YOU LIMB FROM LIMB!
WHERE IS THE SHE WITCH THUNDRA?

MACHUS MAN

Mahkizmo's powers include superhuman strength, the ability to release explosive force from his body, and formidable combat skills.



SURVIVING SPIRIT

Although he overpowered the FF in their first battle, Mahkizmo was eventually defeated. Surviving the energy implosion, his life-force later

Enter Mahkizmo

To counter the threat posed by the Femizons in sending Thundra back in time, the Machans sent their own emissary to the present—a warrior named Mahkizmo. He overpowered the FF and used a will-sapping machine on Thundra to teleport her back to Machus. Following Mahkizmo in Doctor Doom's time machine, the FF eventually defeated him with the assistance of the Femizons. In a final battle, the Human Torch and the Thing attacked the Machan as he was summoning the energy for a nuclear-punch. This caused an energy implosion, disintegrating Mahkizmo and causing the alternate worlds of Machus and Femizonia to merge, ending the hostilities.

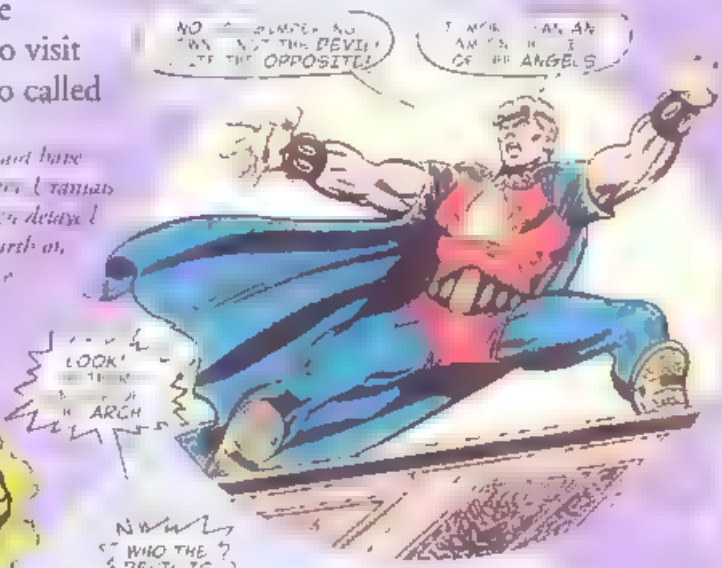
Crusader Legacy

Dr. Horace Grayson fled Germany while Adolf Hitler was still increasing his power. Fearing that a world war was inevitable, the widowed scientist went to America, where he began working on building a private spacecraft. He planned to orbit the moon with his infant son Robert until it was safe to return to Earth. After learning that an advanced civilization was living on Uranus, Grayson headed toward the colony. The Uranians welcomed the father and son and taught Robert all their knowledge. When he became a teenager, Robert decided to visit the Earth and fight crime as the hero called Marvel Boy.

Convinced that he could have saved his father and the Uranians if his trip had not been delayed, Robert returned to Earth on a mission of vengeance.

Horrible homecoming

With a gift from the Uranians, a pair of wristbands that could manipulate gravity and emit blinding light, Marvel Boy became a Super Hero. After some time on Earth, he learned that his father was dying on Uranus. Robert tried to borrow money from Calvin McClary in addition to his father, for medical supplies. McClary refused, causing Robert to delay his trip. By the time Robert returned to Uranus, an unknown disaster had killed everyone.



CALL HIM CRUSADER

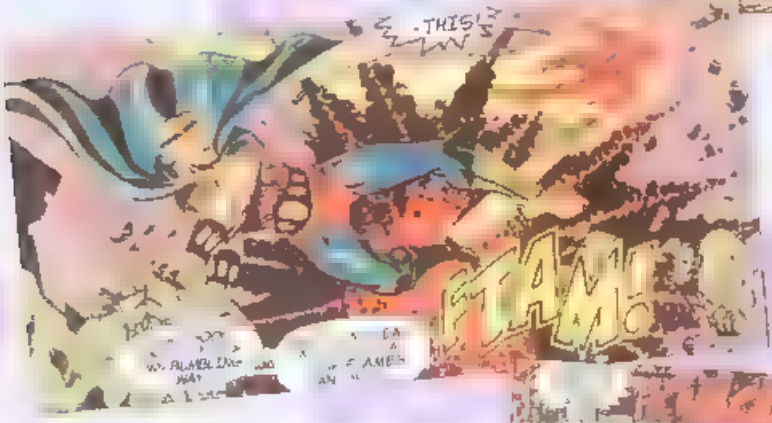
Renaming himself the Crusader, Robert vowed to fight against evil on Earth. His first target was Calvin McClary, whom Robert held responsible for the destruction of Uranus.

Rip Van Rampage

On his return to Earth, Robert's ship passed through the tail of a comet and the radiation froze him in a state of suspended animation. He did not awake until his ship crash-landed on Earth decades later. Robert was still determined to get his revenge. He tracked down McClary, murdered him, then went on a rampage and tried to destroy McClary's financial empire. The Fantastic Four tried to stop Robert, but his new wristbands drew their power from the sun and made him virtually unbeatable.

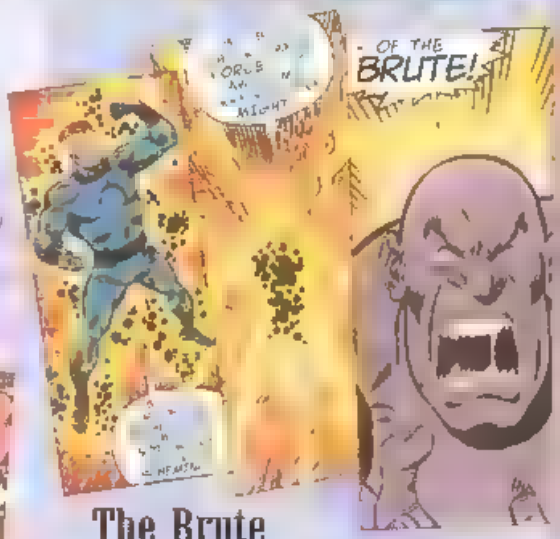
BETTER BANDS

Unlike his original wristbands Roberts new quantum-bands could manipulate energy over the electro-magnetic spectrum. Responding to his mental commands, they could project and control gravitons (subatomic particles that carry the force of gravity). This enabled Robert to emit concussive blasts and fly.



SUPER CHARGED

The new quantum-bands could generate a protective invisible energy field that increased Robert's strength to superhuman levels and made him resistant to any form of injury. Neither bullets nor the Torch's flame could harm him.



A new crusade

During his battle with the F.F. Robert increased his power, drawing so much solar energy that his quantum-bands overloaded and disintegrated him. Reed Richards took temporary custody of the quantum-bands. After examining them, he gave them to SHIELD, a worldwide intelligence and peacekeeping organization. Dr. Gilbert Vaughn was placed in charge of the bands. His son Wendell was training to be a SHIELD agent so Dr. Vaughn used him to test the bands' powers. To Wendell's surprise and dismay, they became bonded to his wrists forever.

A reluctant Super Hero, Wendell first called himself Marvel Man, then changed his name to Quasar.

Recommended by Captain America, Wendell became the chief of security for Project Pegasus, a top-secret energy research facility where he became friendly with Ben Grimm. Later, Wendell rented a Baxter Building office and became a protector of the universe.

QUASAR

Although these are the same quantum-bands that were worn by Robert, Quasar uses them in different ways. He has developed the ability to create solid objects out of energy. These objects form at the speed of thought and can assume any shape that he can visualize. Quasar can also project beams of concussive force and can fly by surrounding himself with an energy field, moving at the speed of light.

The Brute

The Brute is the Reed Richards of Counter-Earth, a replica of this planet that was positioned so that it would always be in orbit on the far side of the sun. When his world was threatened by a cosmic menace, the alternate Reed rocketed into space to save his planet. He was exposed to cosmic rays and was able to transform himself into a super-strong monster with enhanced, animal-like senses. He eventually landed on the real Earth and was recruited by the Frightful Four. After capturing and trapping the real Reed in the Negative Zone, the Brute tried to take Mr. Fantastic's place, but Sue Richards realized he was an imposter. The real Reed was rescued, and the Brute replaced him in the Negative Zone.

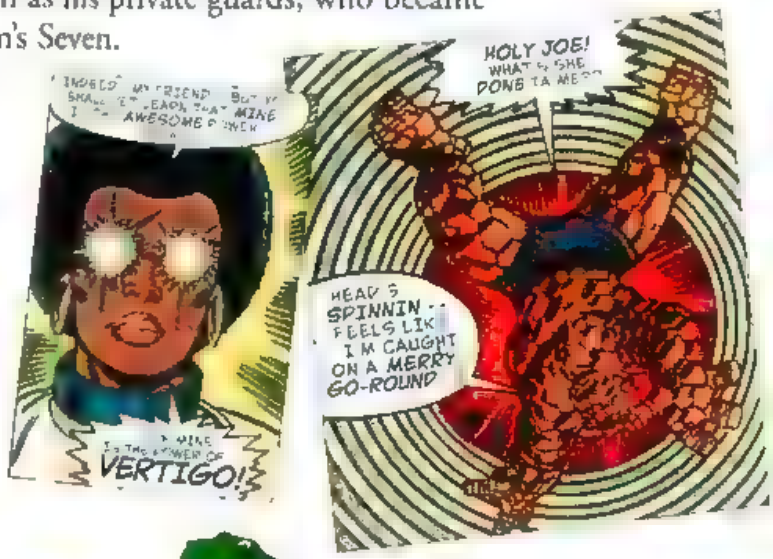
Power-hungry Nicholas Scratch longed to depose his mother so he could have control of New Salem

Salem's Seven

HIDDEN AMID the Rocky Mountains is a town named New Salem, whose inhabitants all practice magic. New Salem's citizens isolated themselves from the rest of the world for fear of being persecuted for being witches and warlocks. The leader of the town was a powerful sorceress named Agatha Harkness. Her malevolant son was a warlock called Nicholas Scratch. When Agatha left New Salem for a time to become the governess of Sue and Reed Richards' son Franklin, Nicholas took control of the town and employed his seven children as his private guards, who became known collectively as Salem's Seven.

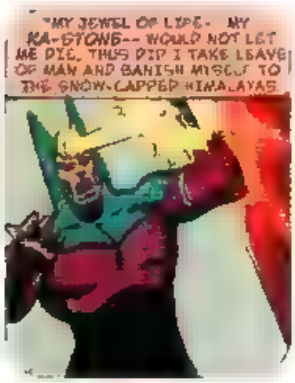
Here there be witches

As citizens of New Salem, the members of Salem's Seven are normal human beings who can wield magic, but unlike the other townsfolk, they also have the ability to magically alter themselves to gain additional superhuman powers and different physical forms. Brutacus can become a man-beast; Gazelle is a super-gymnast who is almost as agile as Daredevil; Hydron can project blasts of water from his left arm; Reptilla becomes a snakelike creature; Thornn can shoot explosive thornlike objects from his body; Vakume can drain energy from anything nearby and can create vacuums; and Vertigo can make people feel dizzy and lose their balance.



Trials and tribulations

Nicholas convinced the people of New Salem that Agatha's contact with the Fantastic Four had betrayed their existence to the outside world, and, therefore, she was guilty of treason. He kidnapped Agatha and Franklin and took them to New Salem so his mother could stand trial. She was found guilty and sentenced to death. The FF tracked them down but were also captured. They later escaped and had to battle Salem's Seven before they could rescue Franklin and stop Agatha's execution. The New Salemites realized that they were wrong about Agatha and exiled Nicholas to another dimension. Salem's Seven have often tried to free their father, but the FF have always stopped them.



The Sphinx

ONCE THE chief wizard in an ancient Egyptian court, The Sphinx was exiled for displeasing his pharaoh. He wandered the desert for years before stumbling on an abandoned temple. There he found a magic jewel called the Ka stone. He raised the stone to his forehead, where it attached itself, giving him superhuman powers and making him immortal. The Sphinx wandered the Earth for over 5,000 years but grew bored. He tried to free himself from the stone but kept failing. Then he learned of a giant, living computer on an alien world called Xandar that he hoped would possess the knowledge he needed to remove the stone and put an end to his immortality.

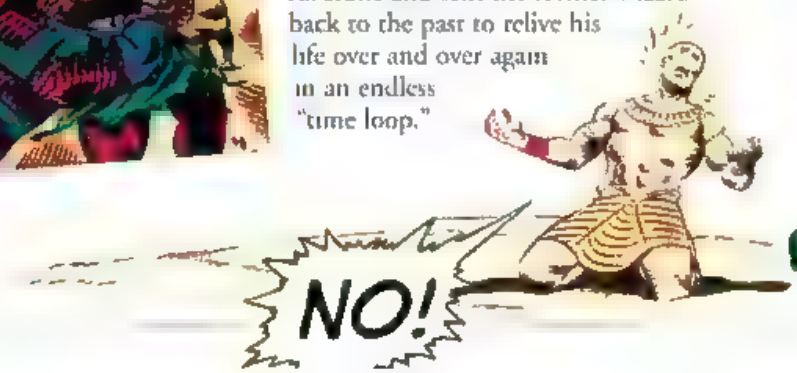
If this be my destiny...

The Fantastic Four had come to Xandar to save it from a Skrull invasion. While the FF battled the attackers, the Sphinx became one with the living computer and absorbed all its knowledge and power. He also gained vast cosmic powers and grew to enormous size. Abandoning his plans to commit suicide, the Sphinx decided to conquer the Earth or destroy it.

YIKES! YA GRABBED MY HAND ... I CAN'T EVEN SWEAT!!!
NOW I'M GOIN' TO TEAR YA LIMB FROM LIMB!
I AM THE SPHINX! I POSSESS THE POWER OF THE KA-STONE! THE STONE OF IMMORTALITY!

When titans clash

Realizing that they did not have enough power to stop the Sphinx, the FF turned to the only one who could—Galactus! They made a deal with the world-devourer, releasing him from his promise to spare the Earth, in exchange for his help. Not only did Galactus defeat the Sphinx, but he shattered the Ka stone and sent the former wizard back to the past to relive his life over and over again in an endless "time loop."



MIND OVER MATTER

The Sphinx is super-strong and can read minds. He can also make other people see hallucinations and fire concussive bolts of energy from the Ka stone.

Terrax the Tamer

THE DICTATOR of the city of Lanlak on the planet of Birj, Tyros thrived on power and conquest. A unique mutation resulted in Tyros having the ability to animate stone creations, a skill that he aimed to use to create his own army. The planet-devourer, Galactus, saw the potential in immoral Tyros as a herald who could discover worlds to feed his desire. Galactus agreed to help the Fantastic Four in their battle against the Sphinx if they promised to overpower Tyros. Reluctantly, they did so, and Tyros was brought under Galactus's cosmic control and was transformed into the all-powerful Terrax the Tamer.

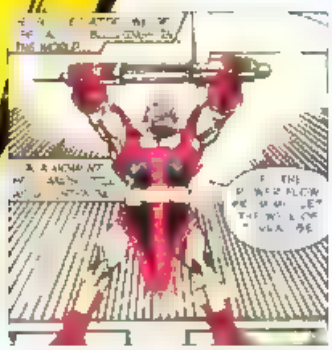
Power hungry

With his transformation, Terrax's power over stone was increased so that he could move 100-mile-wide planets! His body was coated with a rocklike shell able to withstand extremes of heat, cold, and pressure. Galactus armed his new herald with a cosmic ax that could create destructive waves of force and project force shields, making Terrax a terrifying tyrant.

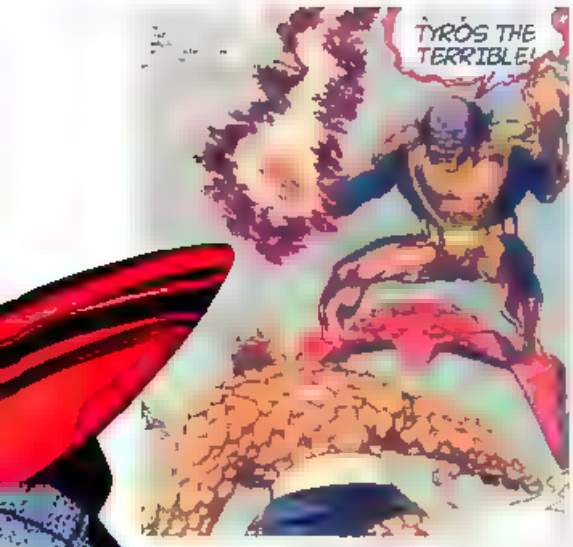
Galactus had allowed his previous three heralds to command water, air, and fire, so it followed that Tyros would rule over earth once he became Terrax.

Betrayal

Just as he lacked morality, Terrax lacked loyalty, and he conquered planets entirely for his own use. However, Terrax was fearful of Galactus and returned to him. This changed when Terrax fled to Earth and took Manhattan hostage, demanding that the FF destroy Galactus's ship. Galactus removed Terrax's powers and threw him off the top of the World Trade Center tower.



Atop a Manhattan skyscraper, Terrax displays his might. It is this power that he calls on to levitate the whole of the island of Manhattan. He hopes to strike fear into the FF so that they will help him be free of Galactus.



Return to Tyros

Terrax remained in a coma for several months. He was discovered by Doctor Doom, who believed Terrax would be the ideal candidate to assist him in destroying the Fantastic Four. Doom kidnapped Terrax and helped him recover. Terrax had no memory of being Galactus's herald and reverted to the name of Tyros. Now powerless, Tyros agreed to wear a special suit that Dr. Doom had created, which would harness and regulate his cosmic energies. Little did Tyros know that these cosmic powers would work against him and eventually consume him.

Cosmic conflict

Tyros was eager to help Doom for personal reasons. In the past, Tyros had been humiliated in front of his people when the Fantastic Four defeated him and took him to Galactus—he wanted revenge. Tyros defeated the FF and then channeled his anger toward Doctor Doom, enraged at being under his control. Having disabled Doom, Tyros thought victory was within his grasp, but at that moment, Galactus's first herald, the Silver Surfer, arrived, saved the FF, and overwhelmed Tyros. The cosmic power within Tyros's special suit depleted him, and he went into hiding, weak and ruined.

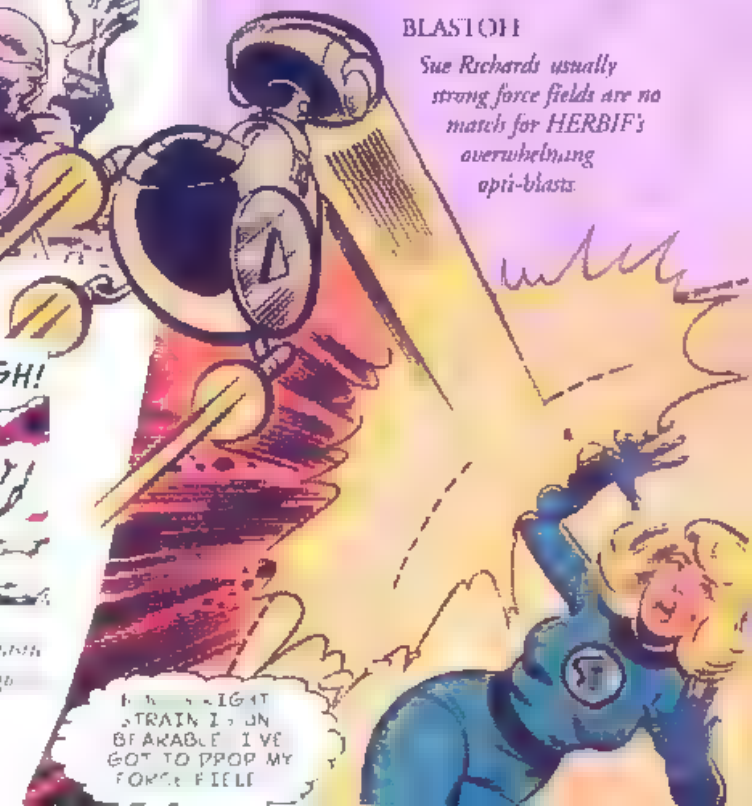
Both Tyros and Doctor Doom want to triumph over the Fantastic Four, but [illegible] the FF to use their powers and help fight [illegible] they will be

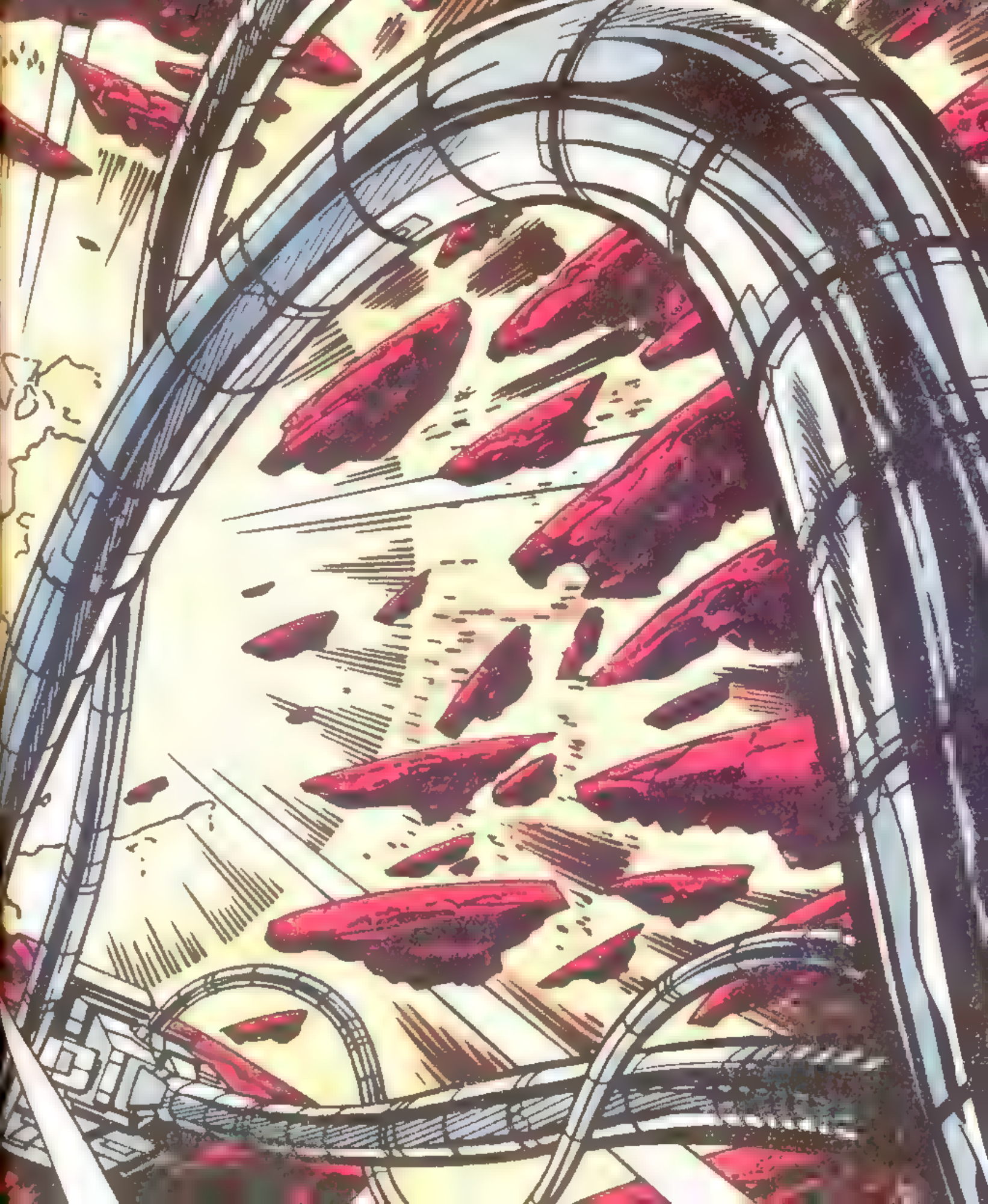
HERBIE

Using technology supplied by the living computers of the planet Xandar, Reed Richards created HERBIE (Humanoid Experimental Robot, B-Type, Integrated Electronics) to help locate Galactus. The robust robot could launch paralyzing opti-blasts and use his retractable tendrils to access computers. However, HERBIE had been possessed by the evil Dr. Sun. He tapped into the Baxter Building computer to get information on the Fantastic Four, which allowed him to find and attack the team. Abandoned by Sun, HERBIE slammed into a computer, destroying himself and Sun in order to save the FF.

BLAST! OH!

Sue Richards' usually strong force fields are no match for HERBIE's overwhelming opti-blasts.





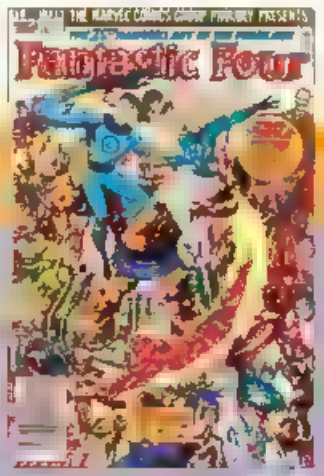
The Fantastic Four in the 1980s

Writer Marv Wolfman and artist John Byrne launched the new decade by having the Human Torch save his teammates from the effects of a Skrull Aging Ray. Blastarr later returned and a god took a stroll down New York's Times Square. Writer Doug Moench and artist Bill Sienkiewicz then took over. They brought back the Sub-Mariner and Salem's Seven and made the Avengers guest-stars. *The Fantastic Four* #232 was called "Back to Basics." It signaled the beginning of an acclaimed run by writer and artist John Byrne. He reintroduced Diablo, gave Sue a new hairdo, sent Johnny on a mission for a dead man, and had the FF save the Earth from Ego, the living planet. A triple-sized 20th Anniversary special featured "Terror In A Tiny Town" and a Stan Lee story developed from old storyboards drawn by Jack Kirby. During the course of the next few years, Byrne moved the Inhumans to the Moon, sent the FF into the Negative Zone for six issues, had Annihilus attack the Earth, and Dr. Doom was apparently destroyed—his heir, Kristoff, becoming the new Doom. Byrne also replaced Ben Grimm with the She-Hulk, had Sue change her name to the Invisible Woman, exchanged the Baxter Building for Four Freedoms Plaza, and ignited Johnny Storm and Alicia Masters' romance. After Byrne left, Roger Stern and John Buscema had Johnny and Alicia marry. Steve Englehart and Keith Pollard gave Reed and Sue leave, bringing in Crystal and the She-Thing. As the decade ended, Walt Simonson took over as the new writer.

Fantastic Four #232 (March 1982)
The FF are in the Negative Zone, their world after Reed, Sue and Crystal leave on a Byrne produced Marvel first monthly comic book. Cover by John Byrne

1980

1981



1982

1983

Fantastic Four #317 (Aug. 1988)
With Reed and Sue on temporary leave, a recently mutated Ben seeks out help from four scientists of the Human Torch, Ground and the Sue Thing
Cover by Ron Lim and Joe Sinnott

Fantastic Four #262 (Jan. 1984)
Reed Richards must defend his decision to save the life of Galactus
Cover by John Byrne

1984

Fantastic Four #

1985

Fantastic Four # *Jan. 1985)*
Cover by John Byrne and Al Gordon)

1986

Fantastic Four #296 (Nov. 1986)

1989

Fantastic Four #334 (Dec. 1989)

Nova

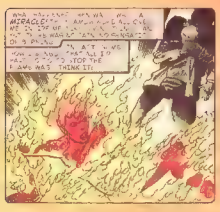
FLAMING HERALD

Nova can use her powers to create flaming blasts of energy, even hover in the air. Frankie has great control over her powers. Unlike her original mentor, Nova had dated Johnny Storm (left).

THE ADOPTED daughter of William Raye, aka Phineas T. Horton, 14-year-old Frankie Raye became Nova in a freak accident. Horton had invented the android Human Torch, a crimefighter active in the 1940s and 50s. When the FF's Johnny Storm took the name of his now-obsolete creation, Horton was incensed. During Horton's attempt to reactivate his android, Frankie was exposed to the chemicals he had used to construct it, instantly gaining its powers.

Torched memories

The fiery chemicals that engulfed Frankie in Horton's lab gave her the ability to create and control flame, without harming herself. Wracked with guilt, Horton hypnotized Frankie, blocking all memory of the event and her new capabilities and giving her a fear of fire. However, Frankie felt herself strangely drawn to Johnny Storm and began dating him. This led to the sudden, shock return of her memory and ability to "flame-on."

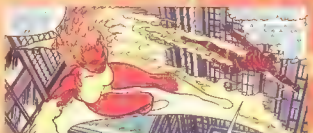


Full control

Frankie's new powers were very similar to those possessed by Johnny Storm. While Johnny could achieve higher temperatures and flying speeds, Frankie could maintain her flames longer and had more precise control over the range of temperatures she could reach.

Flying free

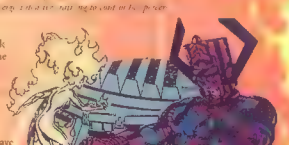
After breaking through the memory blocks placed by her stepfather, Frankie Raye experimented with her powers soaring over the skyscrapers of Manhattan, she was followed by Johnny, who warned of the dangers posed by her abilities. Following tests at the Baxter Building, Raye was offered the chance to join the FF.



In one adventure, Nova battled Galactus and the Fantastic Four. Frankie realized that the only way to end the battle was to use her power.

Herald of Galactus

Although she enjoyed her work with the Fantastic Four, Frankie was restless, desiring more cosmic gravitas. When Galactus threatened Earth she offered to become his new herald in exchange for sparing the planet. Transformed into Nova, her new cosmic abilities gave her power equivalent to that of a miniature sun, while being able to travel at light speed through space satisfied her desire for freedom.



Ego, the Living Planet

One of the strangest phenomenons in the universe, Ego is a sentient world. Also known as the Living Planet, Ego formed from coalescing gas and dust in the same way as other worlds. Over the eons it developed some cunning and intelligence, eventually creating powerful humanoids out of its own material to conquer other planets. After an encounter with Galactus, Ego was equipped with a propulsion unit. Using its cosmic powers to control the device, the planet-sized planet traveled to Earth. Its presence caused earthquakes, tidal waves, and other disasters. Dead but not buried, Ego stayed put in the Sol system until Galactus, seeking a replacement

Terminus

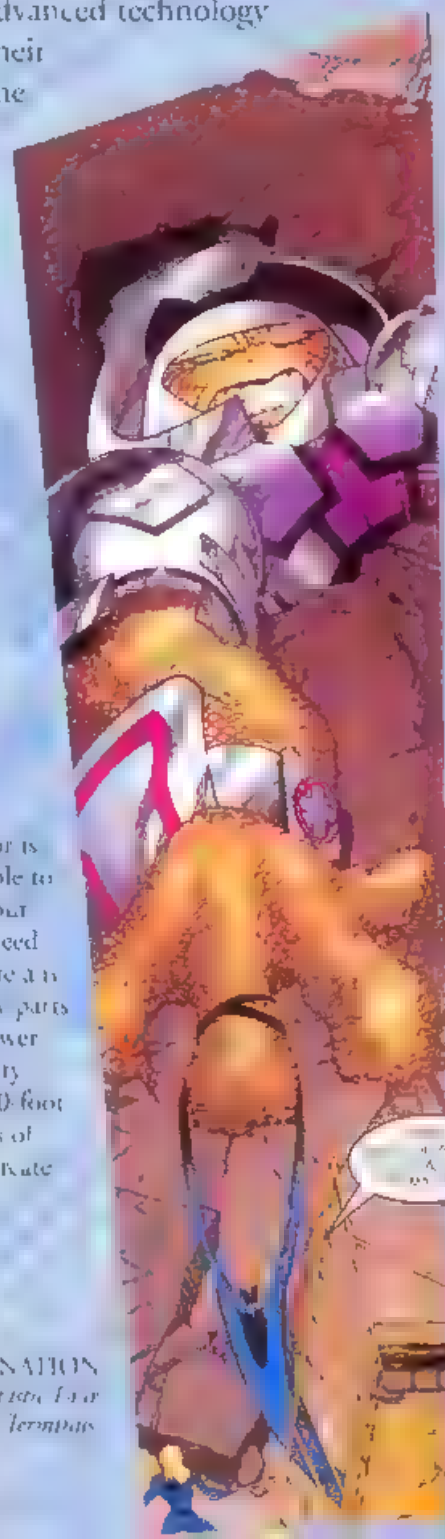
POSSESSING incalculable strength, the massive destroyer Terminus is one of the Fantastic Four's most formidable foes. The scavenger's sole purpose in life seems to be stripping planets of their elements for his own use. He plunders advanced technology from the worlds he attacks and makes slaves of their inhabitants. Terminus is almost indestructible—he takes no time at all to recover from even the most devastating blow—and can even survive being sent to Earth's core

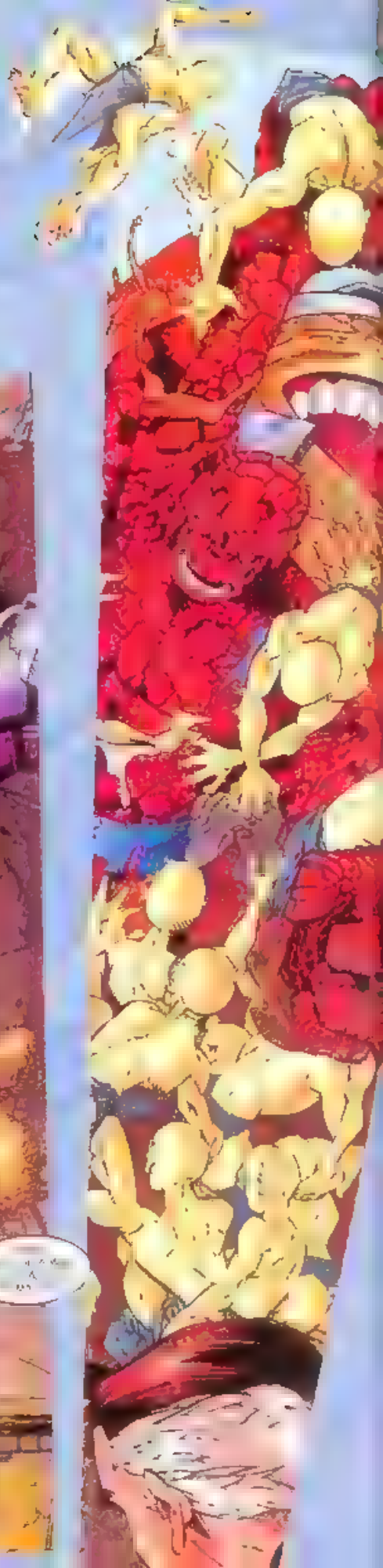
Instrument of revenge

Terminus was the terrible invention of an alien race destroyed for its sins by the Celestials, a race of super-giants. On the point of their destruction, the aliens created a culture of tiny microbes that eventually evolved into Terminus. As their avenger, he traveled from world to world, destroying any planet spared by the Celestials

Almost unstoppable

The mighty Terminus's armor is made of living metal. It's able to withstand incredible forces that can't be breached. Should he need to, Terminus can regenerate, as attested to missing body parts. But his destructive power comes from his mighty energy lance. The 240-foot mace can strip planets of their energy and create atomic storms

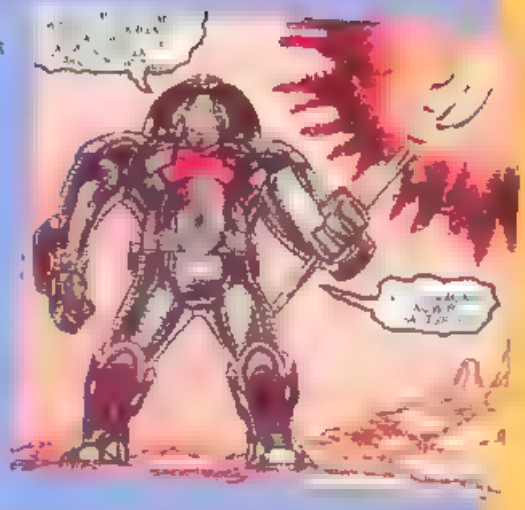




TERMINATION
The Fantastic Four square up to Terminus

Stopping the scavenger

In spite of his size and power, Terminus's first Earth invasion was halted by Mr Fantastic and She-Hulk. They knocked the scavenger's lance from his grasp and sent him to Earth's fiery core. Terminus survived the molten rock, but without his lance, it took him months to climb back to the surface. On another occasion, a formless Terminus returned to Earth and traveled to Subterranea. There, he took over the Moloid Subterraneans—he wanted to use them to make himself a new body. A team of Super Heroes that included the Fantastic Four joined forces with Mole Man to rescue the Moloids and leave Terminus without a body.



Gladiator

The mohican-haired alien Gladiator is praetor (leader) of the Shi'ar Imperial Guard. This elite force protects the empress of the Shi'ar Empire. He first encountered the Fantastic Four when he mistook them for evil Skrulls. Gladiator possesses amazing strength and proved it by lifting the 35-story Baxter Building without it collapsing. His body is virtually invulnerable, and he can fly at light speed. During his battle with the Fantastic Four, he beat the Thing and the Human Torch but was made helpless when Mr. Fantastic figured out a way to neutralize his powers. Gladiator later joined forces with the Fantastic Four to defeat a dreaming Celestial.

MIND GAMES

If Gladiator begins to display human emotions, his powers are affected. Mr. Fantastic uses this information to devise a plan to attack the Fantastic Four.

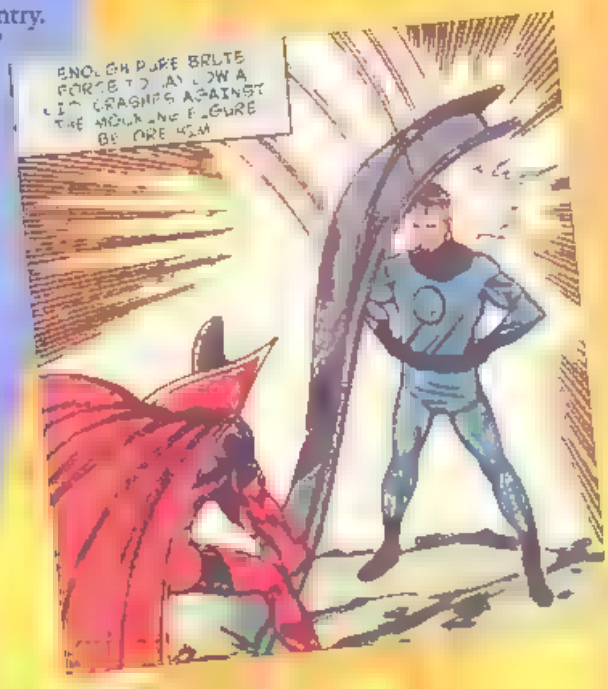
Earth is next

Terminus was first persuaded to go to Earth by an alien scientist that he had enslaved. The scientist hoped that Earth's Super Heroes could stop the destroyer. Terminus sent an energy beam from space to carve a message on Earth's surface. The giant beam hit the continental United States, creating words that stretched across the country. They read, "I claim this world—Terminus."

WORDS WORDS WORDS TERMINUS HAS NO TIME FOR WORDS NO TIME FOR EXCUSES TERMINUS HAS TIME ONLY FOR WEALTH OR LOOT AND POWER
YOU HAVE FAILED ME SLAVE

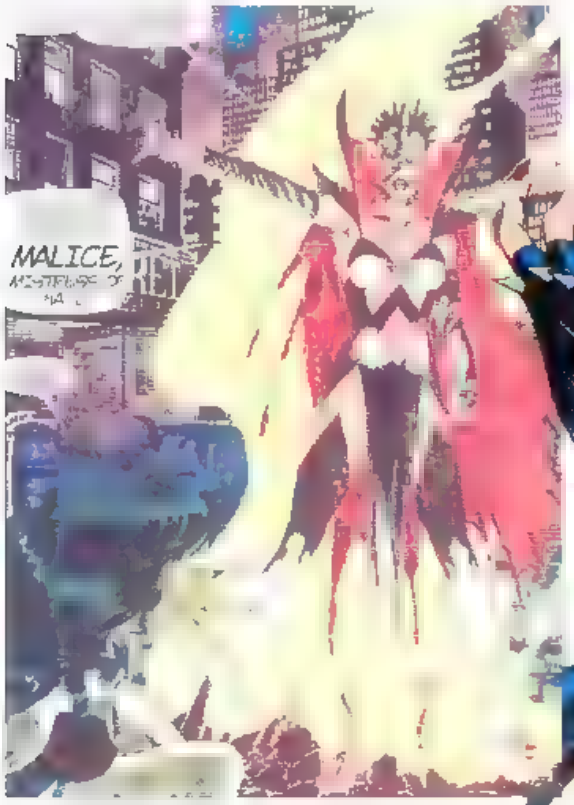
Last words

Terminus was displeased with Earth, and in his anger, he mortally wounded the alien scientist. With his dying breath, the enslaved alien told the Fantastic Four of the danger Earth faced.



Malice The Mistress of Hate

SHORTLY AFTER Kristoff Vernard masqueraded as Doctor Doom and blew up the Baxter Building, the Fantastic Four returned to the site of their former headquarters. While Reed conferred with the police, another former tenant arrived. Mr. Shoenstein had a snack shop in the building for 22 years and was angry over the loss of his business. Reed tried to calm him, but the police overreacted and slammed the old man against a wall. She-Hulk and Wyatt Wingfoot began to intercede and were arrested. A vicious crowd sprang up and started to hurl bricks at the FF. While Reed and Johnny attempted to find the source of the hostility, Sue escorted Alicia home. Hatred was in the air..



Savaging the She Hulk

The police van carrying Wyatt and the She-Hulk was attacked sometime later. While Wyatt helped the injured, a costumed woman named Malice appeared. She caused the ground beneath the She-Hulk to rise in the air and sent her crashing into the Earth. She-Hulk's strongest blows could not harm Malice. As Malice floated above, She-Hulk found that she could not breathe and lost consciousness. Malice had cut off her air supply. Moments later, Malice revealed her real identity—Susan Richards, the Invisible Girl!

With Malice toward all

Reed discovered that the Hate Monger had distributed pamphlets across the city. Each one contained an alien hypno-poison that drove people into uncontrollable rages. Reed created a device to counteract [illegible] but was attacked by Malice. He quickly [illegible] Psycho-Man. Because [illegible] protected by the Hate [illegible] he could free her by making [illegible] worked, and Sue revealed that the Psycho-Man was [illegible]

OPPOSITES ATTACK

While Sue's emotions were the [illegible] opposite of Sue's, [illegible] gest feelings were [illegible] cruelty. While their powers were the same, Malice used [illegible] sible force fields [illegible] resistant suit [illegible]

The girl becomes a woman

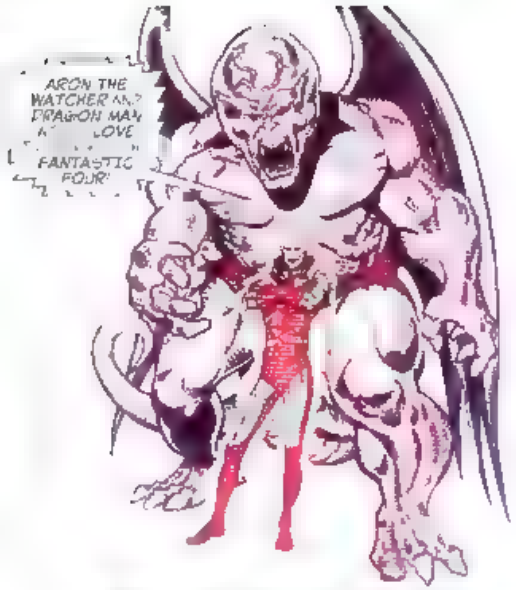
After journeying to the microverse home of Psycho-Man and enacting her revenge, Sue began to reevaluate herself and her powers. She decided that it was time to change her name from the Invisible Girl to the Invisible Woman. Unfortunately, Sue had not seen the last of Malice. Malice's evil personality lurked in Sue's subconscious, looking for a way to escape. Sue eventually tried to integrate Malice into her conscious mind. Still not content, Malice jumped into the mind of the teenage Franklin from an alternate timeline was eventually destroyed.

Malice entered [illegible] embrace and [illegible] her inner she-devil

[illegible] lived angry [illegible] of her father

Hate Monger

The original Hate Monger was a clone who believed that he was a member of a master race that would rule the world. He used a "hate-ray," which magnified his victim's feelings of fear and anger. While battling the FF, he fired at two of his underlings, who then killed him. Aware of the first Hate Monger, Psycho-Man built an android that could change its sex, race, or appearance. The new Hate Monger preached bigotry and violence. It used the Psycho-Man's emotion-controlling technology to induce irrational hatred. The android also distributed Psycho-Man's chemical-coated pamphlets. Assuming Reed's appearance, the Hate Monger brainwashed Sue and transformed her into Malice.



Aron views the secrets of his Dragon Man agent as Earth to find a suitable target from Uatu

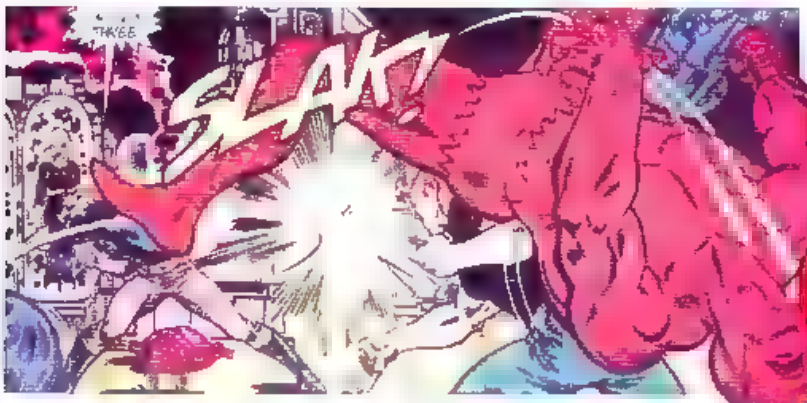
Aron The renegade Watcher

A MEMBER OF the alien race known as the Watchers, Aron became curious about the Earth when he learned that Uatu had occasionally violated his sacred oath to help the planet's inhabitants. After observing countless worlds for untold millennia, Aron had grown bored. He was tired of watching and wanted to use his vast powers proactively. Cloaking himself so that Uatu could not perceive him, Aron journeyed to Earth and took up residence in an office on the 100th floor of the Empire State Building. He began to observe humanity and immediately became intoxicated with their active lives and imaginations.

Fantastic fantasies

Aron immediately focused his attention on the Fantastic Four because of their long-standing relationship with Uatu. After secretly monitoring the team for weeks, he ordered the Dragon Man to attack the She Hulk and She Thing. He then gathered cell scrapings from both of them. After taking DNA samples from the rest of the FF, Aron formed an alliance with the current Frightful Four — the Wizard, Klaw, Hydro Man, and Titania—and led them in a battle against the team. Aron easily defeated them, using only a fraction of his cosmic power and captured the FF.

FRIENDS BECOME FOES
Energized by his victory over the FF, Aron turns on his former allies. He attacks the Frightful Four and quickly overpowers them, teleporting all of his captives to Jasper National Park in the Canadian Rockies. Aron places them all in suspended animation.



After being a passive observer for most of his immortal life, Aron relishes direct physical action. Although he could easily subdue his opponents with a simple psi-blast, he prefers to pummel them.

The Dreamquest Saga

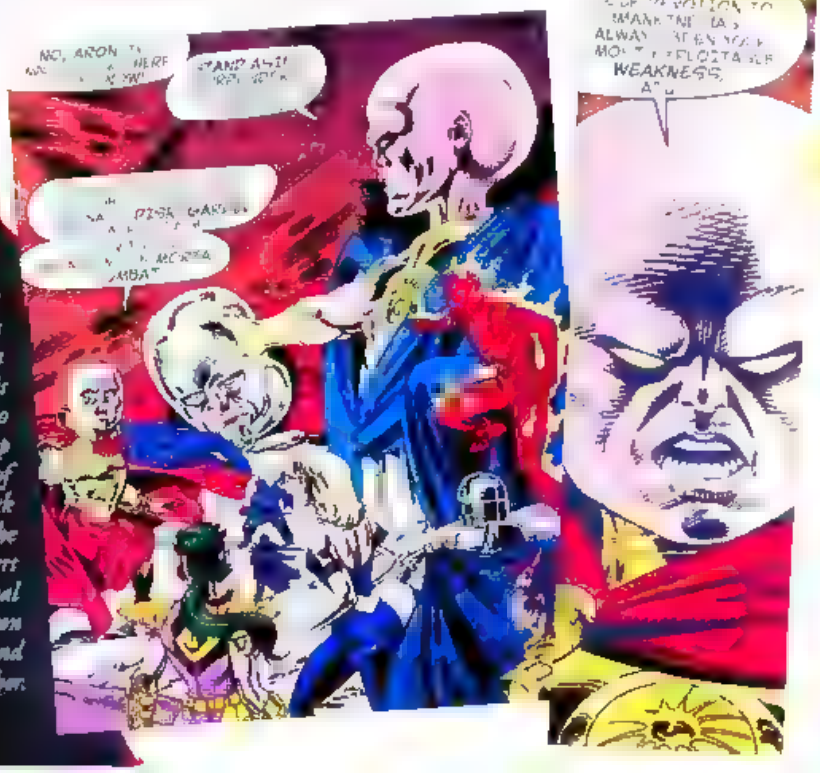
With the real Fantastic Four out of the way, Aron constructed clones out of their DNA. These doubles followed Aron's mental commands, enabling him to live out his fantasies by proxy. The public soon noticed a difference in the team. The clones were nastier and far more aggressive than the real FF. When the Avengers investigated the doppelgangers, a battle erupted and the real FF finally freed themselves. Realizing that his doubles would allow him to fulfill plenty of his fantasies, Aron fled with them.

Dreams and schemes

Aron soon tired of his doubles and exiled them to an alternate dimension. He returned to Earth and kidnapped Alicia Masters because he found her personal fantasies much more tantalizing than mere reality. Desperate to rescue his step-daughter, the Puppet Master forced the Molecule Man to go after her. Doctor Doom joined the battle and temporarily stole Aron's cosmic power. After Aron regained his power, the other Watchers put him on trial for his crimes against humanity. He managed to escape into an alternate dimension when they became embroiled in a war with another alien race.

FINAL BATTLE

While hopping between dimensions, Aron meets an alternate version of Reed Richards who is consumed by madness because he failed to save his world from Galactus. They team up and try to eliminate all the other versions of Reed in the multiverse. The FF stop the dark Reed, but Aron escapes to a secret base in the asteroid belt. He creates a device to convert the entire Milky Way into his own personal mini universe, but the FF destroy it. As Aron prepares to obliterate them, Uatu arrives and saves his friends from the rogue Watcher.



Fasaud's body has been merged with electricity at a molecular level. He can become insubstantial and create blasts of electrical energy.

Fasaud

Sheikh Farouk al-Fasaud was one of the wealthiest and most influential businessmen in the world until a reporter exposed his unscrupulous tactics. Furious, the sheikh cornered the reporter in a television studio and attempted to kill him. A freak electrical accident drew all the power in the studio into the sheikh's body and transformed him into a living television image. The Fantastic Four clashed with Fasaud when he came to New York to try to murder the reporter again. Fasaud defeated the Thing and Ms. Marvel, who learned that the former sheikh was using a communications satellite to transmit himself around the world. The Thing borrowed a space shuttle and destroyed the satellite while Fasaud was in mid-transmission. His fate is still unknown.

HUMAN FORM

When the Beyonder assumed human form, he often appeared as a tall, dark-haired male.

Beyonder aka Kosmos

AN IMMENSELY powerful entity from a dimension outside our universe, the Beyonder was brought into being by the nuclear accident that transformed Owen Reece into the Molecule Man. He observed the Earth for many years through a rift between his dimension (known as the Beyond-Realm) and our own and became fascinated by the desires of individual, sentient human beings. In his own realm, he himself was the sum total of all creation. To satisfy his curiosity, he ensnared the world's greatest heroes and their adversaries, including the Fantastic Four and Doctor Doom, and transported them to his dimension.

Birth of a planet

Lured into a mysterious alien construct that had appeared in New York City's Central Park, the FF and their heroic allies were instantly transported into the Beyond-Realm. On arrival, they found themselves in deep space. Protected inside the force-shielded construct, they watched in amazement as Beyonder annihilated an entire galaxy around them, except for a single star. He then created a new planet near the star. To satisfy the Beyonder's fascination with human nature, his captives were later forced to engage in a "secret war" on the planet, which was named Battleworld.

AWESOME ABILITIES

A second construct carried Doctor Doom and other criminals, such as the Absorbing Man and Doctor Octopus into the Beyonder's dimension. Although a scientific genius himself, Doom was destroyed by the entity's power.

Doom's new powers

Motivated by Beyonder's promise of a valuable prize, the criminals battled the FF and their allies (including the Avengers and the X-Men). Doom used his technological abilities to steal some of the Beyonder's incredible powers but found them difficult to control. Weakened, the Beyonder eventually reclaimed his abilities and returned the warring participants to their own dimension.

OMNIPOTENT ENTITY

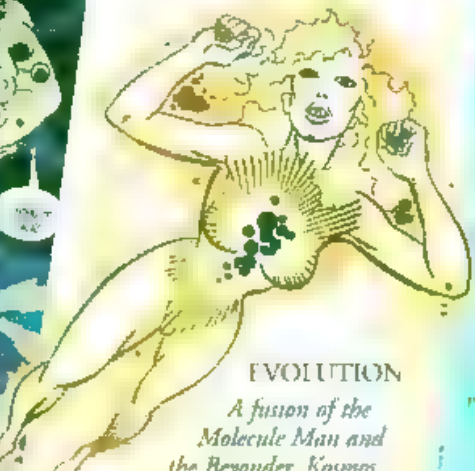
In his dimension, the Beyonder was himself the entire reality. He was literally the sun, the stars and the planets and could appear in any form he chose.

Return to the Beyond-Realm

In a later encounter with the Human Torch, the Thing, Ms. Marvel, the Molecule Man, and Doctor Doom, the Beyonder appeared both as a flaming sun and in human form. Angry at their intrusion into his realm, he threatened to destroy them. Before he could do so, the cosmic intelligence Kubik appeared and engaged him in battle. Determined to show the Beyonder the error of his aggressive ways, Kubik destroyed most of the Beyonders reality. Kubik was about to destroy the entity when the alien Shaper of Worlds stopped the battle. Under the Shaper's guidance, Kubik, Molecule Man, and the Beyonder realized they shared a common origin. Combining their life forces, the Molecule Man and Beyonder became a cosmic cube, which ultimately evolved into the being known as Kosmos.

CUBE'S CREATION

Like Kosmos, Kubik previously existed as a cosmic cube imbued with almost limitless energies, these cubes can alter reality and create new life forms. In a lab accident, laboratory worker Owen Reece released extra-dimensional energy, mutating him into the Molecule Man. This also created a portal into the Beyond Realm, into which some of the energy escaped. The energy developed into the intelligence known as the Beyonder. When Molecule Man and the Beyonder merged to become a new cosmic cube, the trace products of the nuclear accident were claimed to create Kosmos.



EVOLUTION

A fusion of the Molecule Man and the Beyonder, Kosmos took on female form. She did so because she believed the psychological flaws of her previous incarnations were linked to aggressive male characteristics.

Rocky Grimm

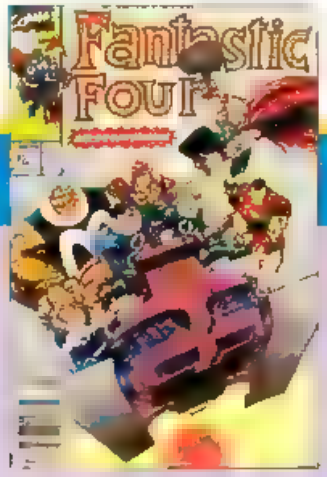
After the 'secret war' conflicts on Battleworld, the Thing remained there for a time when the other heroes and criminals were returned to Earth. There, Ben was able to change form at will, choosing to lead an alternate life in his unmutated form. Adopting the nickname Rocky, Ben explored the planet, becoming involved in numerous adventures as a "Space Ranger." He became close to a woman called Tarianna, a warrior of the Leenin people, and her family. The sensitivity of Battleworld to human desires eventually led the two sides of Ben to split, and he literally battled himself. The human Ben wanted to kill the mutated Thing-side of his identity, but in succeeding, he lost his own humanity. As a result, he was transformed back into the Thing this time for good. His anger over this, Tarianna's tragic death, and other old scores led to the Thing taking on the Beyonder in an epic wrestling match.

YOWW!
FALL, EARTHER!
TSSTST
YOU FALL.
...ME!
WHAM

The Fantastic Four in the 1990s

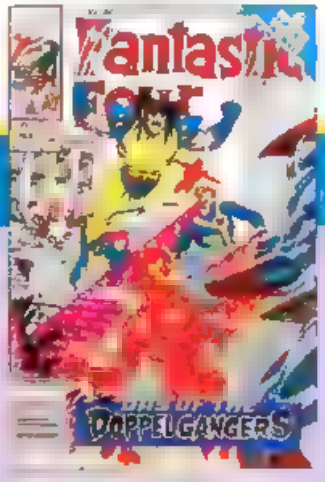
Writer and artist Walt Simonson jump started the new decade by taking the Fantastic Four into the time stream in which they visited an alternate Earth on the verge of World War III and ran into dinosaurs on an island that time forgot. After curing Sharon Ventura of her plight as She-Thing and making Ben Grimm the Thing again, Walt resolved the war between Krystoff and Doctor Doom. He also sent the FF on a wild ride on the Cross-Time Express. A childhood dream came true for Tom DeFalco when, along with artist Paul Ryan, he got a shot at the World's Greatest Comic Magazine. We started with a war with the New Warriors, then revealed that Johnny had married a Skrull, and introduced new villains like Paibok, Devos and Occulus. We explored new realities like the Inniverse, gave Sue a new outfit, had Wolverine scar the Thing's face, and transformed Franklin into a teenager. The FF suffered a devastating loss when Reed Richards and Doom were apparently killed. The Ant-Man and Krystoff temporarily joined the team in time to discover that Watchers lie, and Atlantis rose from the sea. After Reed and Doom returned, Marvel canceled the long-running series and hired superstar writer/artist Jim Lee to recreate the FF with a new origin and new backgrounds for the characters. It was later decided that Jim's stories occurred in a pocket universe and Scott Lobdell and Alan Davis brought back the real FF. Lobdell and Davis were followed by writer Chris Claremont and artist Salvador Larroca.

1990



1991

1992



1993

Fantastic Four: The Legend (Oct. 1996) — the first collector's edition of Fantastic Four #416. Marvel Comics honors the world's greatest comic with a special reissue issue. Cover by Carlo Pagulayan and Bob Wiacek

Fantastic Four #400, May 1995
Walt Reed's presumed final issue as the series team gets caught up in the crossfire of a war between the Watchers and the Celestials. Marvel celebrates with a massive foldout cover. Cover by Dan Jurgens and Danny Bulanadi

1994

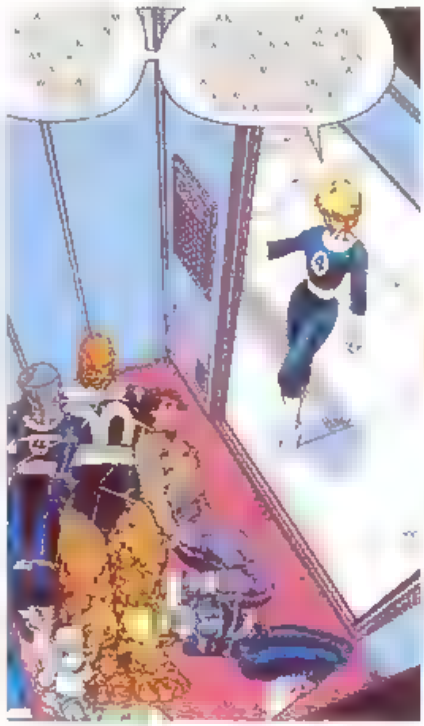
1995

1998

1999

All New Fantastic Four

INSIDE THE ORBIT of the moon, a spacecraft phased out of subspace and entered our plane of reality. Severely damaged, the ship headed for the Earth crashing moments later and marooning its sole occupant. Hours later a beautiful woman entered Four Freedoms Plaza and asked to see the Fantastic Four. After being told that the FF would not see her without an appointment, she apparently disappeared. However, a few minutes later, familiar faces appeared to the individual members of the FF and shocked each one into unconsciousness. Meanwhile, out beyond the orbit of Mars, a Skrull battleship phased into our solar system. The Skrulls were on the trail of De'Lila, a traitor to their empire. They scanned for Skrull mind-waves and detected them on an island in the Bermuda Triangle called Monster Isle.



Big trouble on little Earth

Suspecting that the Skrull Empire was after her, De'Lila secured the FF and sent out a call for help. Spider-Man, the Hulk, Wolverine, and Ghost Rider responded. Disguised as Sue, De'Lila told them that assassins had murdered the other members of the FF and were planning to kill more people. She gave them a tracking device and sent them after the supposed killers.

Where monsters dwell

On Monster Isle, the Skrulls discovered giant creatures. Deciding to use them to find De'Lila, the aliens targeted them with slave darts and scattered them around the world. The Mole Man ruled Monster Isle and got angry when he learned that Skrulls were using his monsters. He captured the aliens and threatened to kill them unless they returned his creatures. As the Skrulls obeyed, the All New FF arrived on Monster Isle and prepared to avenge the old FF.

Mind games

At Four Freedoms Plaza [illegible] Reed and [illegible] Sue Storm-Richards. She needed his help to find an [illegible] that could [illegible] and [illegible] to track down [illegible] Reed suggested she pretend to be in love with De'Lila. It tracked the technomind to a [illegible] ordering [illegible] network that led to Monster Isle.

Dangerous, deceitful De'Lila

De'Lila is a mutant Skrull, who is both [illegible] and an empath. Not only can she read minds, but she can also [illegible] them to her advantage by convincing her victims that they love her. She wanted the technomind because it was indestructible and the perfect assassin to use to slay the Skrull emperor.

Eggs got legs

The technomind would become enslaved to the first living [illegible] it saw, so ever [illegible] Mole Man [illegible] the [illegible] it. However when it [illegible] the power bender with [illegible] the Mole Man's giant monsters. The original [illegible] was recruited and De'Lila was taken over [illegible] the Skrulls.

Lyja

AN INTELLIGENCE officer for the Skrull military, Lyja infiltrated the Fantastic Four in the guise of Alicia Masters, the Thing's blind girlfriend. Using her Skrull shape-changing abilities to match the real Alicia's appearance, Lyja successfully duped the team for a considerable amount of time. Her deception was exposed when the Puppet Master revealed her true identity to Ben Grimm. By this time, Lyja had fallen in love with Johnny Storm and was ready to help the FF rescue the real Alicia Masters from the Skrulls' clutches

Skrull spy

In order to be [illegible] assumed guise, Lyja absorbed [illegible] of information in the Skrull archives about the FF, Alicia Masters, and the planet Earth. She also had to learn to function as a blind person, including being able to walk unaided. When she was ready and a Skrull team traveled to the Earth's solar system Odyssia, the Moonrider, a stealth cruiser, they waited for the chance to substitute Lyja for the real Alicia

Kidnap attempt

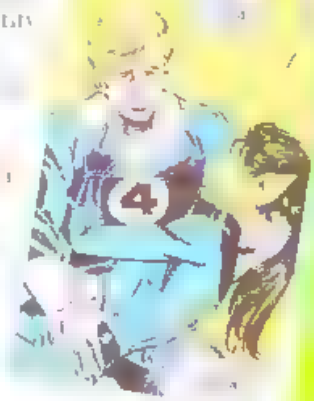
When Reed Richards, Ben Grimm, and Johnny Storm were [illegible] transported to the Beyond Realm, the Skrull [illegible] Alicia. Lyja then befriended Sue [illegible] ease. But when Reed and [illegible] boyfriend, Ben, Lyja [illegible] plan and [illegible]

Paibok

A biomically re[illegible] Skrull military officer, Paibok was responsible for planning Lyja's original infiltration mission. Naming himself the Power Skrull, Paibok has superhuman strength and the ability to fly. His skin is as strong as steel, and he can project blasts of electricity and ice. Paibok was instrumental in resuscitating and transforming Lyja after the Fantastic Four's assault on War World. When he later became an outcast from the Skrull empire, he sought out scientists to further enhance his powers, but his appearance became that of a living corpse.

Lyja revealed

[illegible] by the Sue Hulk [illegible] the Beyond-Realm, the [illegible] Johnny and Lyja [illegible] returned to Earth, he was upset at first, but soon accepted the situation. [illegible] Lyja was devastated when [illegible] and subverting the [illegible] in return for [illegible]



Lyja the Lazer fist

[illegible]

Devos The Devastator

ORPHANED ON a distant alien world, Devos was enrolled in the army, where he quickly became a great warrior. Scientist Symka saw potential in him and chose him to take part in the "Great Experiment," which altered his genetic structure and granted him astonishing power. Devos decided he would use this power to bring peace by destroying any race capable of war, believing this was his sacred responsibility. Following this principle through to its logical conclusion means that the "guardian of galactic peace" is paradoxically determined to destroy every race!

Evil eliminator

Finding the Fantastic Four's ship, Devos captured the team and brought them onto his Death Cruiser. Seeing a threat in the human race, Devos confronted the FF and used up vast amounts of energy in trying to destroy the Thing. Mr Fantastic was able to knock the weakened Devos into the energy grid, causing the Cruiser to self-destruct. However Devos escaped just in time.

Paibok payback

When Devos first met the Power-Skrull Paibok, he thought he had a fight on his hands. However, the pair realized that they shared a common enemy—the FF. Joined by Klaw and Huntara and given the moniker the Fearsome Foursome, the group captured the Fantastic Four and presented them to the Skrull Empire at their new Throneworld. Paibok found out that Devos was wanted by the Skrulls and tried to arrest him. A fight ensued, resulting in Devos taking his Death Cruiser into battle. Unbeknown to him, Paibok had climbed on board, sabotaged the ship, and sent it into sub-space. Devos was later seen at a meeting for enemies of the FF.

Betrayed by Paibok and Devos's own hatred against the Fantastic Four, Devos soon banged down Paibok and Devos planned to destroy the Skrulls—and there was a substantial price on the accountant's head.

WAR AND PEACE

*Mercenary agent [illegible] sell Devos's services to get [illegible] Devos's [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Occulus Power Incarnate

IN AN ALTERNATE dimension called the Inniverse, an Earthlike universe that can be accessed by entering the space between atomic and sub-atomic particles, a young Occulus and his brother Wildblood were tested by the Gem Guild to detect if they could manipulate the energy in the power gems that orbited their world. Occulus was blessed with this power and was taken by the Gem Guild. No one knows why he later plucked out his right eye and replaced it with a power gem. Was it madness or a ploy to gain greater personal power? Either way, Occulus's power grew until he ruled the Gem Guild and the entire Inniverse.

Brotherly love

Hearing that Wildblood opposed the Gem Guild, Occulus sent his army to capture his brother. They found that Wildblood had escaped to Earth through a portal constructed by Reed. They fought the Fantastic Four and brought Wildblood, Sue, and Franklin to the Inniverse. While Ben, Reed, and Johnny tried to rescue the others, Occulus discovered that Franklin's psionic powers were connected to the powers of the gems. His instinct was to kill Franklin but he decided instead to harness Franklin's powers to magnify his own.

Power-hungry

Occulus found that he could now command all the gems that fill the Inniverse skies. He let the FF free Sue and Franklin but then confronted the rest of the group. The battle that ensued saw Reed use his Enervator, a device that saps gem power, on Occulus, weakening his power. Under Reed's instruction, the Rebel Underground—the Gem Guild's enemy—built a screen that could attack Occulus's energies, sending the bejeweled one into space. He reappeared at the meeting for FF enemies.

OMNIPOTENCE

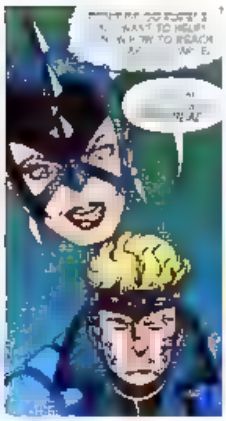
The all-seeing Occulus wants more than blind obedience from the inhabitants of the Inniverse. However, Occulus's people fear their leader and his ever-consuming power.

Nobody Gets Out Alive

EVEN THOUGH she had watched as Reed Richards and Doctor Doom were disintegrated, Sue Richards refused to believe her husband was dead. She knew that Doom could have faked their deaths and taken them to a hidden lair – especially since the newspapers were printing recent photos of Doom! After seizing Doom's matter transference computer from his castle in Latveria, Sue asked her science consultant Scott (Ant-Man) Lang to link it to their space/time sled so that the Fantastic Four could teleport to Doom's receiving stations and secret hiding places.

Terrible tidings

While Sue made the preparations for her search, an apparition appeared before the Fantastic Four. Engulfed in flames, an image of a younger Sue in one of her old costumes said she had witnessed the deaths of Ben and Johnny. Within minutes, the team also learned that Franklin had hijacked their space/time-sled. Fearing the prophecy, the team debated its course of action, but Sue knew what she must do.

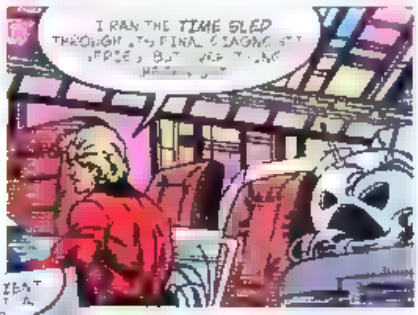


At the mercy of Malice

Sue never fully accepted Franklin as a teenager. However, he learned that Sue was being manipulated by Malice and tried to rescue her. Malice mind-leaped into his subconscious and influenced him. Sue did not care what the others decided. She was going after her son.

The new Doom

Unbeknown to the FF, Nathaniel Richards had gone to Latveria and taken control of Castle Doom, masquerading as the missing ruler. Still claiming that the universe was in danger from an unrevealed enemy, Nathaniel contacted Franklin and hinted that Reed was alive. Desperate to find Reed and enlist his aid, the teen sneaked into FF headquarters, assaulted Lang, and stole the space/time sled.



INTO THE TIME STREAM

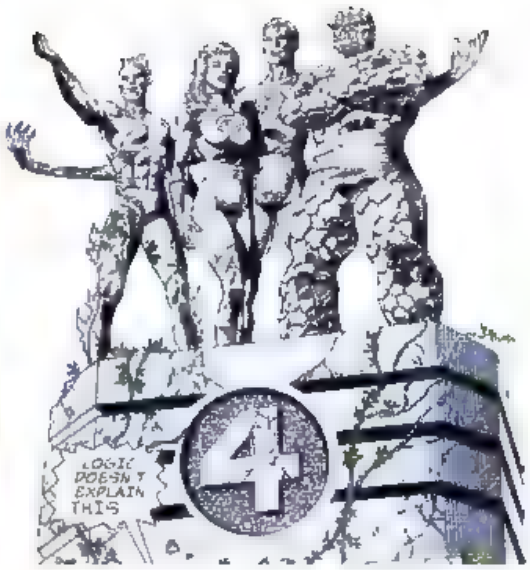
Scott has linked the space/time sled to the FF's old time platform so that they can track Franklin through time and space. Scott feels responsible for the loss of the sled, so he joins Sue, Ben, and Johnny, who plan to defy the prophecy.

Back from the dead

Using their time platform, the team materialized in the original Baxter Building. Wondering why Franklin had led them there, they entered a nearby laboratory. Unable to believe her eyes, Sue recognized the man standing before her. He was her missing husband!

Deadly is the Dark Raider

Unfortunately, Sue quickly realized that this was a Reed from an earlier time period and met younger versions of Johnny, Ben, and herself. As the two teams eyed each other suspiciously, Franklin appeared on the scene. Goaded by Malice, he sparked a fight between the different groups. During the course of the battle, a mysterious figure suddenly materialized. Calling himself the Dark Raider, he murdered the younger Reed and Sue and revealed that his mission was to destroy every possible version of Reed Richards. Believing that he had finally met Nathaniel's great enemy, Franklin slipped away from the others and started hunting the Dark Raider.



Future lies and past deceptions

Leaping from one alternate reality to the next, the Fantastic Four were always one step behind the Dark Raider, who left a trail of dead Reeds in his wake. The FF arrived in a distant future, where they learned that New York had been destroyed, and they were responsible. They moved backward through that timeline, turning up just as their younger selves faced a battle with Galactus. Reed was sent to retrieve the Ultimate Nullifier but did not return in time. The prophecy came true when Galactus incinerated Ben and Johnny before consuming the Earth.

The Raider revealed

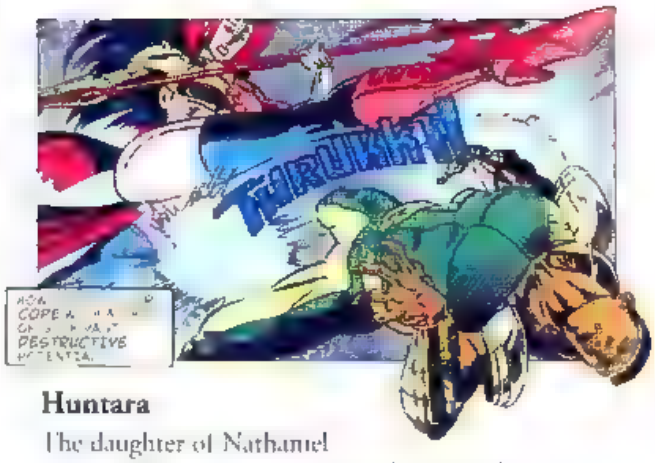
After watching their counterparts die, the FF returned to their own reality. They were soon attacked by the Dark Raider, who revealed that he was the Reed who failed to save his world. As the team was joined by the Watcher and Franklin, the Raider attempted to activate the Ultimate Nullifier and erase the entire universe.

O' bitter victory

After centuries of inaction, the Watcher obliterated the Dark Raider before he had time to carry out his threat. The Watcher then had to go into exile for violating his sacred oath. Still believing that her Reed was alive, Sue quit the Fantastic Four so that she could devote all her time to finding her missing husband.

Fantastic Force

AFTER LEARNING that one of his subjects was a teenage mutant, the Black Panther met a young Inhuman who was having problems with his new powers. T'Challa took the pair to the Fantastic Four, where they met Franklin Richards (Psi-Lord) and Huntara. When Sue Richards quit the FF, the four teens formed a super-team.



Huntara

The daughter of Nathaniel Richards, Huntara grew up in a barbaric alien dimension, where she was trained in the arts of war and personal combat. Her weapon of choice is a psionic scythe that can cut through almost any material known to man, can fire deadly concussive blasts, and allows her to teleport herself.

Legacy

Aside from the teenage Franklin Richards (who possessed telekinetic and telepathic powers) and Huntara, the Fantastic Force had two other members. Vibraxas was a haughty Wakandan, able to generate and direct powerful vibrations in any object that he touched. Devlor the deadly was a short and insecure Inhuman who could transform into a giant-sized, super-strong creature.

From the ashes

Funded by the Black Panther, the Fantastic Force was almost a reverse image of the FF. The original team was a normal family that explored the extraordinary world, the new team was an extraordinary family that explored the normal world. They battled Klaw, rogue Inhumans, the Puppet Master, and Diablo. The new team's ranks swelled to include T'Challa, the Human Torch, and She-Hulk.

A FORCE OF ONE

The team ultimately disbands after they learn that Reed Richards is still alive. Franklin goes on to rejoin his parents

Hyperstorm

IN A POSSIBLE future that may never occur, Franklin Richards grew to manhood in a concentration camp for mutants and married Rachel Summers. Rachel had the powers of Phoenix, a near-infinite force that came from the psionic energies of all living beings. Their only son became Hyperstorm, the most powerful mutant ever, and lashed out at the world that enslaved his parents.

NO HUMAN BEING HAS EVER POSSESSED THE POWER WHICH IS MINE!
I TRULY CONTROL THE POWER SUPREME!
ON YOUR KNEES, YOU HELPLESS SIMPLETONS! YOUR SALVATION TEETERS ON MY WHIM!
GET ON YOUR KNEES--!

THE POWER SUPREME

Hyperstorm draws his power from hyperspace, a virtually unlimited source of energy.

ALL TIMES & SPACE

Since he is already the absolute master of his particular universe, Hyperstorm plans to extend his empire to include every time period and alternate dimension

The great enemy

After conquering the Earth, Hyperstorm extended his empire to include the rest of the known universe. While studying possible timelines, Franklin's grandfather, Nathaniel, learned about his great grandson and tried to stop his rise to power. Nathaniel kidnapped Franklin as a child and returned him as a teenager. Hyperstorm snatched Reed and Doctor Doom from the present and convinced the world that they were dead.

Strange days

Searching for Reed, Sue found Hyperstorm's timeline and learned that Reed had been exiled to an ancient Earth. Reunited, the FF battled Hyperstorm but could not defeat him. Though he could have killed them, Hyperstorm zapped the FF back to their own time.

The forever war

Determined to save the multiverse, Reed lured Hyperstorm to a distant asteroid and summoned Galactus to join them. Galactus realized that Hyperstorm's energies could satisfy his hunger and started to feed. Reed banished them to a pocket universe. Galactus eventually returned, but Hyperstorm's fate is currently unknown.

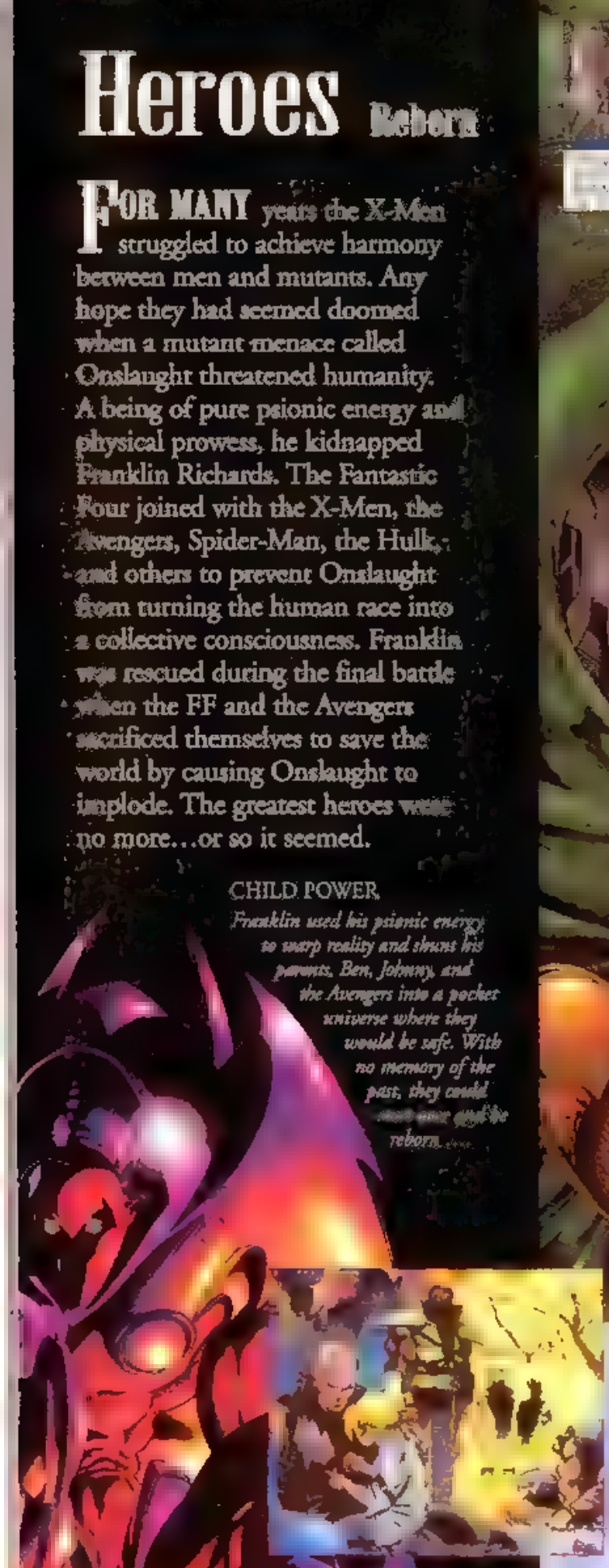
I AM GALACTUS! MY GNAWING HUNGER CAN NO LONGER BE DENIED!
THUS, I MUST FEAST UPON THE LIVING ENERGIES WHICH I SENSE WITHIN YOU!
AARRGNN!

Heroes Reborn

FOR MANY years the X-Men struggled to achieve harmony between men and mutants. Any hope they had seemed doomed when a mutant menace called Onslaught threatened humanity. A being of pure psionic energy and physical prowess, he kidnapped Franklin Richards. The Fantastic Four joined with the X-Men, the Avengers, Spider-Man, the Hulk, and others to prevent Onslaught from turning the human race into a collective consciousness. Franklin was rescued during the final battle when the FF and the Avengers sacrificed themselves to save the world by causing Onslaught to implode. The greatest heroes were no more…or so it seemed.

CHILD POWER

Franklin used his psionic energy to warp reality and shunt his parents, Ben, Johnny, and the Avengers into a pocket universe where they would be safe. With no memory of the past, they could start over and be reborn.



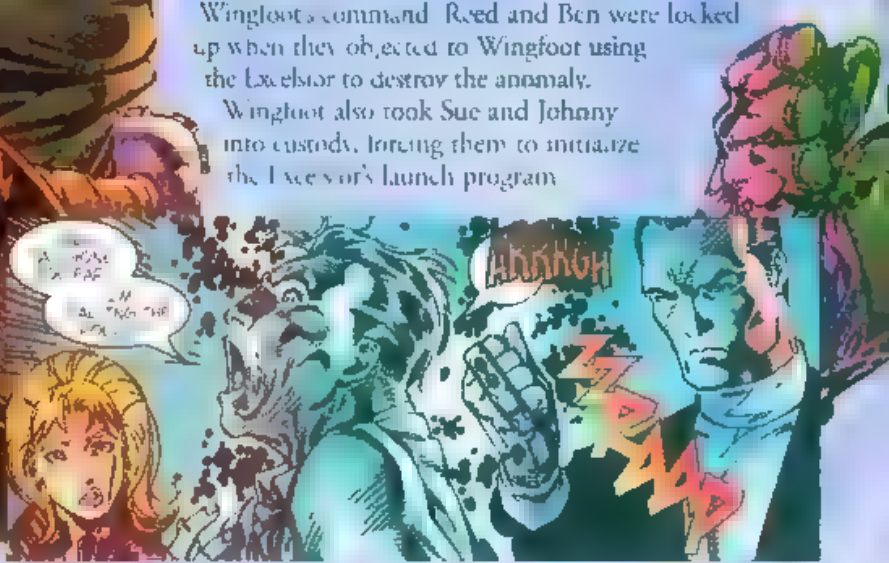
ATOMIC KNIGHTS

Victor Von Doom (later Doctor Doom), Tony Stark (Iron Man), Bruce Banner (Hulk), and Reed Richards attended the same university in this alternate reality.

New origins

In his new life, Reed Richards still dreamed of exploring the stars so he designed an experimental quantum-drive starship called the Excelsior. His funding came from the Storm Foundation, whose CEO was also his fiancée, Susan Storm. Sue ran the multi billion-dollar organization and was a martial arts expert. Johnny was a marketing specialist who loved beautiful women, casinos, and cars. Ben Grimm was still Reed's best friend, a former astronaut, and test pilot.

When a stellar anomaly was found at the edge of the solar system, the National Space Agency was convinced that it threatened Earth, and the Excelsior was placed under Special Agent Wyatt Wingfoot's command. Reed and Ben were locked up when they objected to Wingfoot using the Excelsior to destroy the anomaly. Wingfoot also took Sue and Johnny into custody, forcing them to initialize the Excelsior's launch program.



Doomed

Unknown to his superiors, Wingfoot was working for Doom. Meanwhile, though Sue knew that she was putting the Storm Foundation at risk, she convinced Johnny to help rescue Reed and Ben. They were soon reunited, but it was too late. Wingfoot had armed the Excelsior in order to destroy the anomaly. If it were a message from space, Reed feared that the government's aggressive actions might doom the Earth, so the four raced to prepare a prototype for launch.

Super Heroes again

As the Excelsior rocketed into space, Reed and his friends entered a makeshift spacecraft. Knowing that they lacked the fuel reserves and reinforced shielding of the Excelsior, the team was not sure they would survive their trip. But they were willing to sacrifice themselves to save their planet. They reached the anomaly moments before Wingfoot fired his missiles. Exposed to the combined radiation of the missiles, space, and the anomaly, the team crashed on Earth. They soon discovered that they had all gained superhuman powers and pledged to pool their new abilities as the Fantastic Four.

THE SILVER ANOMALY

The new FF discovered that the stellar anomaly was the Silver Surfer. Instead of destroying him, Wingfoot had used the missile strike to cover the Surfer's abduction. Wingfoot turned his captive over to Doctor Doom, who interrogated the alien and tried to steal his power. Doom learned that the Galactus of this reality planted catalyst pods in worlds around the universe. The pods gradually mutated planets so that they could sustain Galactus. The Surfer had come to Earth to see if it was ready to be devoured.

SECRET SKRULL

The FF later discovered that the man they thought was Wyatt Wingfoot was actually a Skrull masquerading as the government agent. Pretending to work for Doctor Doom, the Skrull captured the Silver Surfer. He later became a Super-Skrull when he betrayed Doom and hijacked the Surfer's cosmic power for himself.

Old faces, new agendas

The new FF also met the Mole Man, who was now a religious fanatic determined to conquer the world; the Sub-Mariner, who attacked the surface world because he feared that it was responsible for the pollution that was slowly poisoning his people; and the Black Panther, a head-of-state who often conducted business with Susan. Other old faces included the Inhumans, who were now the remnants of an ancient civilization that predated man, and Maximus, who belonged to the same cult as the Mole Man.

THE HEROES RETURN

Reed led his team into the Negative Zone, where he met Uatu. He showed the FF images from other timelines. Sue was shocked to see that she and Reed had a son in an alternate dimension. Images of Franklin began to haunt her dreams. Back on the real Earth, Franklin believed that his parents were still alive, causing his pocket universe to become unstable. Realizing that they did not belong in this alternate dimension, the Avengers and the FF returned to their plane of reality.

Crucible

DOUBLE DOOM

Reed mistook Crucible for Doom. Crucible thought it would be apt if he destroyed the doctor's enemy.

THE ENCLAVE is a group who want to create an artificial race ruled by dictatorship with the aim of ridding the world of war and crime. Two of its members, nuclear physicist Maris Morlak and geneticist Wladyslav Shinsky, would each come to inhabit the armor of Crucible, created by the Monks of Doom, in a bid to harness Reed's creative energy to further their cause. They believed their ideas would be humanity's salvation.

Crushing Crucible

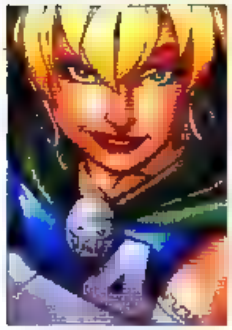
To trap Reed, Morlak as Crucible attacked a meeting of scientists, forcing Reed to come to the rescue. Activating a device, Crucible was able to tap into Reed's energies. He then took Reed to Genosha, where Crucible experimented on Genoshans. The Genoshan government captured Reed to help them against Crucible, not realizing Reed had lost his powers.

Mind-swap

The rest of the FF searched for Reed. Crucible swapped their minds with three Genoshans so they could not use their powers. However, after a fight with their counterparts, they reclaimed their bodies. Shinsky became Crucible and was defeated later by Reed.

NOT SO FANTASTIC

Jomo Kimane, Larisa Mansour, and Harry Soong were the unlikely vessels for the minds of Ben, Sue, and Johnny.



Marvel Girl

VALERIA VON DOOM is the daughter of Sue Richards and Victor Von Doom in an alternate timeline. One day, Valeria walked out of a bathroom and came face to face with her brother Franklin, who was only five years old. In her reality, he was her older brother! Almost instantly she had to call on her powers to defend Franklin and his babysitter, and became Marvel Girl.

Mutinous Bounty

A bounty hunter conveniently called Bounty was stalking Franklin's babysitter, a Super Heroine named Caledonia. Valeria transformed into Marvel Girl in order to save them. However, before she had the chance, the Bacchae, Hades' henchmen captured Marvel Girl, Franklin, aunt Alyssa, and Caledonia. The Fantastic Four rescued Valeria and realized that they had met her in a time where the present and past co-existed.

Fantastic family

Reed and Sue were worried that Valeria's presence meant that the future and past that they had seen would come true: Reed, Ben, and Johnny would die and Sue would be Valeria's mother and Doctor Doom's widow. Fearing rejection, Valeria disappeared and tried to fight various beings including a mind-controlled Thing. Luckily, Sue came to her rescue and finally accepted Valeria before taking her home.

FAMILY TIES

Initially, Reed and Sue were fearful of what Valeria represented.

ABOUT FIVE OR SO YEARS AGO THE TEAM SUFFERED ITS MOST TRAGIC LOSS
WHILE THE ACTUAL DETAILS WERE NEVER RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC WE DID LEARN THAT REED AND SUSAN SUFFERED A DEADLY MISHAP

Fantastic Five

IN A POSSIBLE future that may never occur, the Fantastic Four fought Hyperstorm in the Negative Zone and Reed was disfigured. Hyperstorm was defeated, but his doomsday weapon ripped a hole in the fabric of reality. Sue's force field stopped the hole from destroying reality. To keep her in suspended animation but retain her force field, Reed created a space station around her.

BIG BRAIN

Using a subspace carrier beam, Reed controls Big Brain from the Negative Zone. His first Big Brain was like HERBIE but he has updated his design

From the ashes

The rest of the world was unaware that an unconscious woman was all that prevented total oblivion. After months of seclusion, the team formally changed its name to the Fantastic Five and was made up of Johnny Storm, the Human Torch; his shape-shifting wife, Lyja Storm, whose codename was Ms. Fantastic; Franklin Richards, known as Psi-Lord; Ben Grimm, the Thing; and Big Brain, a robot with Reed's brain.

Till death

Unable to leave his beloved wife, Reed Richards took up permanent residence in the Fantastistation, the space station he had constructed. He attended to the unconscious Sue while slowly repairing the hole, managing to restore a few inches every month. Knowing that Sue was depending on him, he never stopped trying to find a way to knit the hole together. Reed's only contact with the outside world was through his Big Brain robot.

THE FUTURE F5

Torus thinks a future F5 will consist of Jacob, Alyce, Franklin himself and Kristoff Vernard (Doom)

Continuation

After settling down together, John and Lyja Storm had a son, Torus, who inherited his father's control over fire and his mother's shape-shifting abilities. He occasionally took on the appearance of an adult superhuman that he called Super-Storm. Injured in battle, Ben was fitted with bionic implants. He was divorced from Sharon Ventura and had two teenagers, Jacob and Alyce, who dreamed of joining the team.

Fantastic Four 2099

IN ANOTHER POSSIBLE timeline, the Fantastic Four awoke within a cryogenic suspension chamber in the Negative Zone. After returning to Earth, they discovered that the year was 2099 and the planet was ruled by multi-national corporations instead of governments. One of the largest, Stark/Fujikawa, declared that the FF were genetic experiments that had gone astray and claimed them as escaped property.

Brave new world

On the run from Stark/Fujikawa, the FF met Chimera, a fellow fugitive from the Negative Zone, who volunteered to serve as their guide. Chimera fell in love with Reed and repeatedly attempted to delete Susan from his program. The team stumbled upon a cult that worshiped the mighty Thor and learned that Doctor Doom was trying to free Latveria from corporate control

Strange tidings

Hoping to learn how and why they came to this timeline, the Fantastic Four attempted to return to the Negative Zone. Their entrance was blocked by Dr. Strange, the master of the mystic arts, who had journeyed into the future to warn them that a planetoid was on a collision course with the Earth. The polar icecaps began to melt and flood waters spread across the globe. Desperate to save the planet, Reed Richards joined forces with Doom 2099. The Watcher revealed that these FF members were actually temporal copies of the originals, constructed purely to spare the Earth from destruction

DOOM 2099

Doom 2099 cannot recall how he came to the future, but he claims to be the original Victor Von Doom.

SPIDER-MAN 2099

Trapped in the future, the team enlists the aid of their era's Spider-Man, but even he cannot discern if they are clones or the real FF

OKAY, YOU FANTASTIC FUGITIVES! TIME FOR A CRASH COURSE IN 2099 BY--
OH, THE GUARDS ARE GONE?
YEAH, COBWEB HEAD-- JUST LIKE YER GONNA BE IN ABOUT TWO.
4
4

just
to try
murder
AAAAHH!

Not until he gives me my *son* back.

The Fantastic Four in the 2000s

Having introduced the future daughter of Sue Richards and Doom from an alternate timeline, Chris Claremont and Salvador Larroca began the decade by exploring how Valeria Von Doom fitted in with the rest of the Fantastic Four family. They also brought back the real Doctor Doom, leaving Reed trapped in Doom's armor and trying to find a way to avert a world war. Writer and artist Carlos Pacheco, with Rafael Marin and later Jeph Loeb, began with Diablo, the destruction of Pier 4, and the return of the Super-Skrull. Pacheco introduced Noah Baxter, Senso, Abraxas, and a new Baxter Building. Ben regained the ability to transform into the Thing at will and Johnny became a movie actor. With the help of most of the comic-book industry, writer and artist Erik Larsen supervised the production of a 12-issue limited series called *The World's Greatest Comic Magazine*, celebrating Stan Lee and Jack Kirby's work. Writer Mark Waid and artist Mike Wieringo introduced Modulus and took a fresh look at familiar FF villains, like the Frightful Four, in the main FF title. New FF-related titles included *Marvel Knights 4*, by Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa and Steve McNiven, which focused on the family aspect of the team. *Ultimate Fantastic Four* by Brian Bendis, Mark Millar, Warren Ellis, Adam Kubert, and Stuart Immonen recreated the team to fit into the Ultimate Universe. The biggest news was the announcement of the major motion picture, produced by Marvel Entertainment and 20th Century Fox and directed by Tim Story.

Fantastic Four Annual 2000. The Sub-Mariner's ex-girlfriend returns. Cover by Salvador Larroca and Art Thibert

Fantastic Four Vol. 3 #34 (Oct. 2000). While the rest of the team hunts for an alien saboteur, Sue is trapped in the Wild West. (Cover by Salvador Larroca and Art Thibert)

2000

Fantastic Four Vol. 3 #45 (Feb. 2000). Sue, Johnny and the Thing try to stop Doom's army. Cover by Salvador Larroca and Art Thibert

2001

Fantastic Four Vol. 3 #57 (Nov. 2001). Alternate realities collide as the cure to the FF battle Annihilus. (Cover by Carlos Pacheco and Jesús Merino)

2002

Fantastic Four Vol. 3 #60 (Oct. 2002). Mark Waid and Mike Wieringo begin their highly acclaimed run. Cover by Mike Wieringo and Karl Kesel

2003

Fantastic Four #500 (Sept. 2003). The title celebrates 500 issues by officially returning to the numbering from its first volume. (Cover by Paolo Rivera)

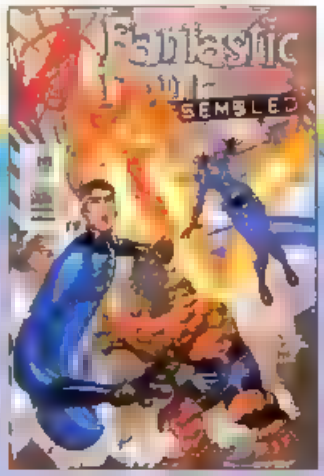
Marvel Age Fantastic Four #1 (July 2004)
Marvel targets young readers with a new FF title that retells old Stan Lee and Jack Kirby stories with a modern twist. (Cover by Masato Nakatsuka)

Fantastic Four #2 (March 2004)
The Super Hero community is shocked when Sue agrees to be Doom's consort, but Jen knows that Reed is the man in the armor. (Cover by Salvador Larroca and Maria Pilar)

June 2004

Fantastic Four #512 (June 2004)
everyone's favorite web-swinger. (Cover

Oct. 2004



Fantastic Four #517 (Oct. 2004)
Invisible Woman. (Cover by Mike

Dec. 2004

Fantastic Four #521 (Dec. 2004)
tries to stop Galactus from eating

Abraxas The quest for perfection

THE HEAD OF Galactus unexpectedly fell from space and landed in the middle of New York's Times Square. Reed discovered that the head did not belong to the Galactus he knew. Someone killed a Galactus from another reality and sent it to the Fantastic Four as a warning. Realizing they needed help, the FF went to the Blue Area of the Moon to consult the Watcher. Instead of Uatu, they discovered a Watcher suffering from amnesia. Nova and an intelligent Hulk from an alternate reality arrived and other realities began to bleed in. The FF confronted alternate versions of themselves and learned that a near-omnipotent menace was headed toward Earth, an entity who called himself Abraxas.

REALITY WALKER

Abraxas's power is the ability to travel between realities and destroy those he deems imperfect. He can also create realities and alter them at will. He is the last of his kind.

Cleaning universes

Abraxas dreams of a single perfect universe and is dedicated to cleansing the multiverse. He seeks out and eliminates powerful entities that exist on more than one alternate world. He erases planes of reality that do not fit his ideas of perfection. After scouring universes and destroying different versions of Galactus, Reed realized that Abraxas seeks Galactus's weapon, the Ultimate Nullifier, so that he can erase every plane of reality except one.

Scavenger hunt

The FF joined their alternate world doppelgängers in a hunt for the Nullifier that extended across the multiverse. The Human Torch and Nova found the weapon. However, Nova betrayed Johnny and revealed that she worked for Abraxas. As Nova delivered the Nullifier to her new master, Franklin Richards and Marvel Girl combined powers to summon the real Galactus. Reed got the Nullifier, bringing it to Abraxas and restoring the universe to its proper state.

POWER PERSONIFIED

Abraxas's power is the ability to travel between realities and destroy those he deems imperfect. He can also create realities and alter them at will. He is the last of his kind. He is the personification of reality.

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

Secretary of the Hidden Jack Oliver and humans Trevor Fitzroy can easily cover to children to government and police. Powerful Inhumans, they have the ability to control they use their powers to influence world leaders to create a wealth of misinformation attention to other matters.

Senso Sweet revenge

A FEW THOUSAND years ago, a group of Inhumans began to develop the ability to influence the minds and emotions of those around them. Distrusted and feared, this group eventually left the Great Refuge. They mated with humans, blending in with each generation. A group of Nazi explorers found this group in 1942. The Nazis killed the adults and captured the children. Tortured and enslaved, those who survived the Nazi death camps realized that they must make sure that they could never be found. They called themselves the Hidden, and their leader was named Senso.

GRIM GARGOYLE

Brian Braddock was a human who pulled a prehistoric off and was into living stone and gained the power to turn others into stone. Even of life of crime Lawful, agreed to work for Senso.

A choice of dooms

The Fantastic Four were alerted when ruler Black Bolt and his royal family returned from a mission in space. The Inhumans had come before the UN to establish peaceful relations with humanity. Fearing that their distant relatives might reveal their existence, the Hidden, with their ghostly glowing eyes, secretly used their powers of persuasion to turn the world against the Inhumans. In his human form, Ben Grimm attempted to find who was behind the anti-Inhuman fervor and was captured by Senso. When the UN rejected Black Bolt, Doctor Doom offered the Inhumans asylum in Latveria.

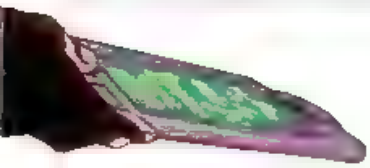
Senso can manipulate thoughts and emotions. Ice means to use the intense psychological agony and date the new people she to that different men can see a different woman.

The eyes have it

While searching for Ben, Reed was also taken prisoner. He discovered that Senso wears many guises and can appear as either a hardworking military aide or a sultry rebel leader. Since she intended to bury Reed and Ben in a military prison for the rest of their lives, Senso taunted them, revealing that the Hidden blame the Inhumans for all their suffering. By sheer force of will, Ben managed to free himself and Reed from Senso's control, forcing her to flee. Senso's current whereabouts are unknown, and the Hidden still live among us.

I KNOW IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE OUR LAST ENCOUNTER, SIR BUT I AM QUITE CERTAIN MINE IS A NAME YOU WILL REMEMBER FOR A LONG TIME TO COME...
...ONCE YOU REAWAKEN!

Modulus



SUPER PDA

Reed Richards' PDA [illegible]

JEALOUS BECAUSE his parents were spending time with his sister, Franklin Richards tried to win back their attention by becoming smarter. He took his father's Super-PDA, on which Reed jotted down all his thoughts. This device was a conduit to another dimension, and Franklin unleashed a living mathematical equation from it. Calling itself Modulus, the being claimed that it was in love with Reed and wanted to bond itself to him.

Murderous math

Considering itself to be the mathematical equivalent of Reed and the total of his essence, Modulus realized that it was the only one worthy of him. It decided to subtract anyone competing for Reed's affections and attacked Sue and Ben. It divided molecules and tried to reduce them into their chemical components. Saved by Sue's force fields, Sue and Ben escaped. Reed confronted Modulus, who linked their minds until the Torch drove them apart.

Balancing act

Reed realized that Modulus was lonely because it was only half of an equation. It could never rest until it found an equal who could balance it. Ordering the others to distract the creature, Reed entered the alien dimension that birthed Modulus and began to fashion another mathematical duplicate of himself.

The correct answer

Ben and Johnny tried to lead Modulus into an abandoned building, but it multiplied the structure's molecules, until the building collapsed. When Modulus returned to the Baxter Building, Reed offered it the new double, but it rejected the copy—it wanted the original. Citing his love for Franklin, Reed stated that because Modulus could never balance each other. So Modulus formed a stable equation with the double and went home.

Johnny the Invisible Boy

FOUR ALIEN obelisks descended from the sky and surrounded Manhattan. The Fantastic Four discovered that a federation of aliens whose worlds had been consumed by Galactus had developed a technology that could cloak planets. They had come to Earth because they learned that someone could negate their device. The aliens wanted to destroy this person before Galactus could find her. Her name was Sue Richards, and she could make invisible things visible

Trading places

When the aliens threatened to destroy the city unless Sue surrendered, Reed invented a weapon that seemed to take away her powers. Since Sue was no longer a danger, the aliens left and Reed revealed that his weapon switched powers between Sue and Johnny. Sue was the Human Torch, and Johnny was the Invisible Boy.

Rising Storm

While the team were celebrating their deception, Galactus arrived, snatched Johnny, and [illegible] power cosmic." Realizing that Galactus intended to use Johnny as his new herald, the FF enlisted the aid of Quasar and gave chase. Knowing that Galactus would soon need to feed, Johnny tested his powers as he scoured the universe for an uninhabited world

Galen's return

The FF found Johnny and used a [illegible] of Reed's power-switch [illegible] to strip Galactus of all h[illegible] cosmic energy. Galactus became Galen again. Knowing this change would not last, the FF brought Galen back to Earth and tried [illegible] to stop devouring [illegible]. Galen exiled himself in an energy rich dimension so that the rest of the universe [illegible]

Unthinkable

Victor Von Doom had been perfectly content protecting the people of Latveria from harm and fighting against the Fantastic Four using any means that science and technology would allow. He had discovered early on that his mother had been a sorceress but picked science over magic as his weapon of choice. However, his priorities changed. Doom began his pursuit of sorcery, sacrificing anything and anyone necessary in order to become the greatest magician. How would Reed Richards, the man who believes everything has a scientific explanation, cope with Doctor Doom's rejection of science in favor of magic? Would he be able to defend his team against something that he felt was impossible, unbelievable, and unthinkable?

Love's young dream

Two young Hungarian gypsies, Valeria and Victor, fell in love and meant the world to each other. But Victor became interested in new technologies as a way of protecting his village and was awarded with a U.S. scholarship. This was the beginning of a new life for Victor—but without Valeria. She felt she should could not leave her home. Victor went to America and threw himself into work. While there, he suffered a disfigurement and vowed to spend his life avenging it. After years of using his technologies for evil, Victor decided he wanted to find Valeria and renounce science. Using fortune-tellers Victor tracked Valeria down and tried to win her back. But his intentions were not as pure as they seemed.

LOVE TOKEN

In order to prove the honesty of his feelings for Valeria, Victor gave her a locket that he had treasured since they parted. He promised Valeria that she must always trust him and she does not flinch from his touch as he removes the mask. Valeria take Victor's hand with expressive amazement.

AAAH! Victor!

NEW ARMOR

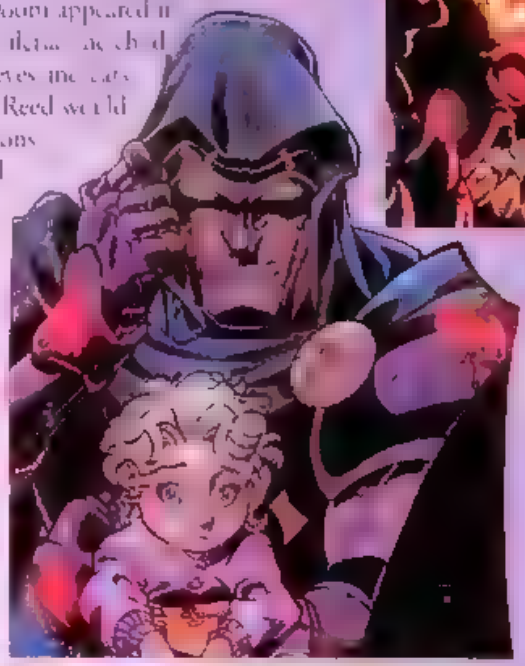
Valeria's body bursts into flames, and her skin unravels and envelops Victor. As Valeria meets her doom, Victor explains that he had made the wrong choice, however it wasn't choosing science over Valeria but choosing science over sorcery.

Evil pact

Doom made a bargain with demons in hell to make him the best magician he could be—and Valeria was the sacrifice. Meanwhile, baby Valeria Richards was playing with her building blocks when Doom appeared in one of them. He explained that Valeria, as a child he named as his "familiar," was the key for his magic. Doom vowed that Reed would die. But first Doom and the demons kidnapped Franklin Richards and took him to hell.

VICTOR'S VESSEL

Doom explains to Victor Von Doom the risk that will always have them despite Reed's hope. She suffered a miscarriage during her first pregnancy. When she became pregnant again, she went into labor when Reed left town, Johnny summoned Doom for help. Doom agrees, but only if he and Victor's child after its birth. Doom cast a spell to have Victor's child for...



DEMONIC

The Hag with Three supply Doom with sorcerous powers in return for Doom becoming their representative on Earth. Doom uses the demons' help to abduct Franklin, crossing the Earth to Doom's palace in Latveria.

Science versus sorcery

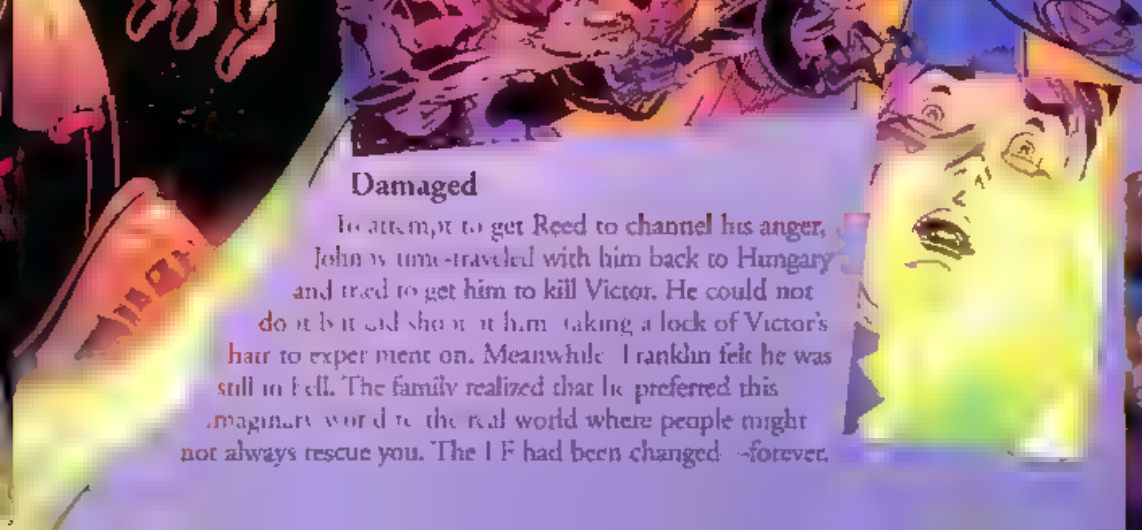
The Fantastic Four boarded a ship to rescue Franklin, but the ship crashed right into Doom's path. Doom's power had grown even stronger. Doom locked Reed in a prison to teach him about magic—he could only escape by casting the correct spell. Although he was opposed to this, Reed realized that it was not enough merely to say the spell, he had to believe in it and accept that there were some things beyond scientific analysis. He worked out that he could enchant only by admitting his foolishness when it came to sorcery. The FF rescued Franklin and all of the team except Reed returned through the portal.

CHANGE OF HEART

Doom denies he is indebted to anyone, and the Haaaareth Three pull him back toward hell. Apologizing to Reed, Doom begs for help, but Reed does not fall for Doom's lies. A Reed about to go Doom [illegible] his face. However, Reed's scars are far greater [illegible] wreaks vengeance on him.

Damaged

In attempt to get Reed to channel his anger, Johnny time-traveled with him back to Hungary and tried to get him to kill Victor. He could not do it but did shoot him, taking a lock of Victor's hair to experiment on. Meanwhile, Franklin felt he was still in Hell. The family realized that he preferred this imaginary world to the real world where people might not always rescue you. The FF had been changed forever.



Authoritative Action

IN A BATTLE for the souls of Franklin and Valeria, Reed Richards finally defeated his arch-enemy, Doctor Doom, and exiled him to a demonic dimension—but the victory was not without cost. Doom tortured the Fantastic Four, destroyed their home, and disfigured Reed Richards. While the team were still reeling from these injuries, a new problem arose. Doom was the absolute monarch of Latveria, providing his people with food, housing, and free health care. Doom demanded blind obedience in return. Who would lead and protect his homeland now that he was gone? Who would gain control of Doom's scientific wonders and advanced weapons of mass destruction? While debates raged in the United Nations over the "Latverian problem," the countries along its borders prepared to invade....

WITH POWER...

From the sidelines, Reed grows more concerned. He knows that the world is better off without Doom but fears for Latveria. He does not trust politicians to stand up for the country and knows its small army cannot protect it from invasion. He fears that Super Villains may try to loot Doom's weaponry. He wonders who will take responsibility for the Latverian people.

Taking responsiblity

Believing that [illegible] tolerance from [illegible] attacks against the warring [illegible] court. The [illegible] when they [illegible] the Latverians. [illegible] erected [illegible] and [illegible] entire districts were trapped within [illegible] fields. Warning [illegible] Latverians to [illegible] government with [illegible] compatriots [illegible] Reed sent them into retreat.

[illegible] Latverians [illegible] them [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Political unrest

Even though Reed granted total freedom to all Latverians, a resistance movement began to grow within the country. Johnny and Ben traced it down to its leaders but were later enraged when a message sent by Reed ridiculed and praised them. Realizing that Reed grew ever more remote, when Latverian objects in the streets started to mysteriously disappear, the United States had disavowed Reed's actions in Latveria and intended to arrest him for treason.

Perpetual prison

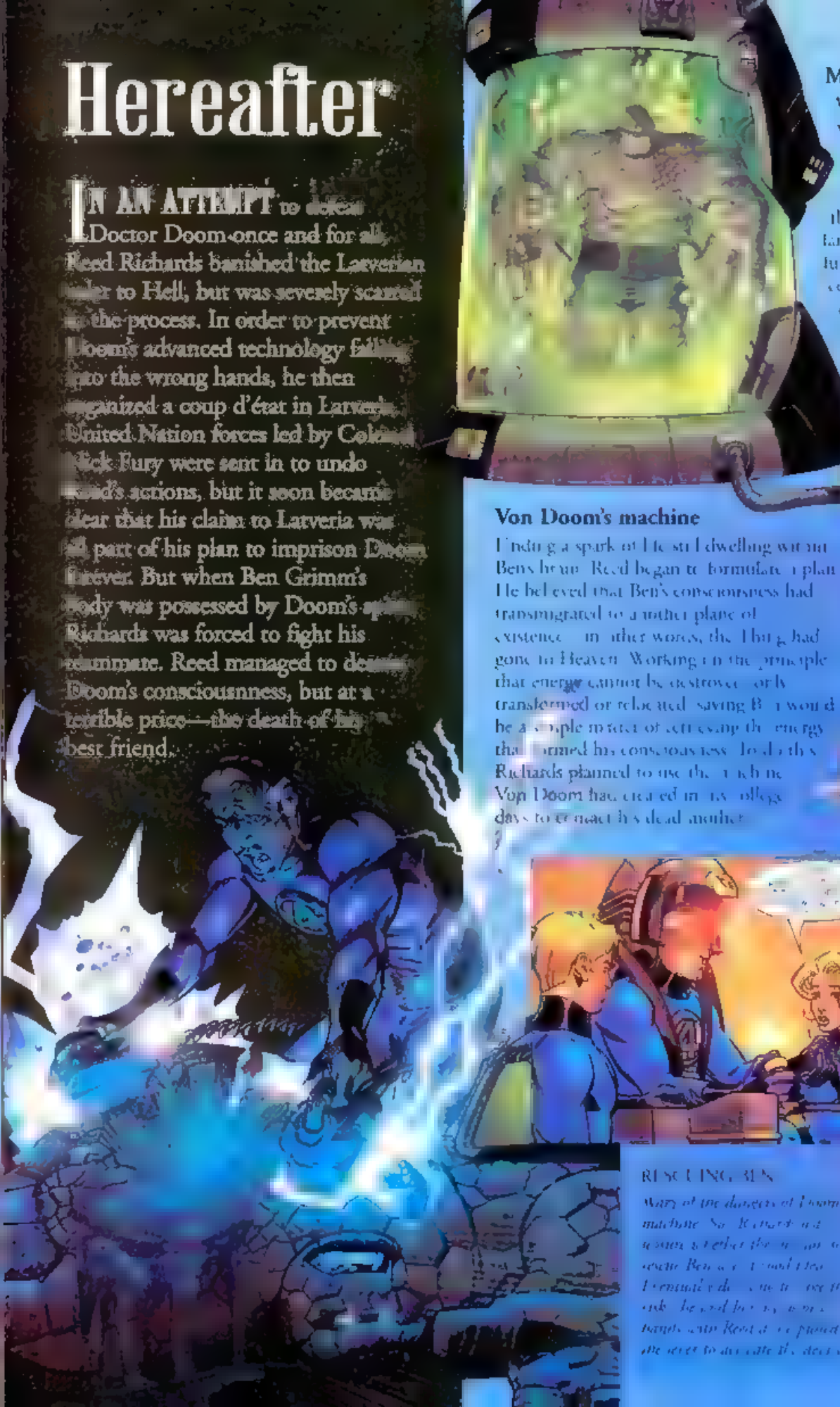
After liberating the rest of the team and sending them away, Reed entered a "speed" chamber and transported himself to a power dimension – from which others could be no escape – and summoned the pursuit Doctor Doom to join him. In order to ensure that his family and friends would remain free from Doom, Reed had decided to sacrifice himself and preserve Doom's prize for all eternity.

MIND JUMPING

BEEE

Hereafter

IN AN ATTEMPT to defeat Doctor Doom once and for all, Reed Richards banished the Latverian ruler to Hell, but was severely scarred in the process. In order to prevent Doom's advanced technology falling into the wrong hands, he then organized a coup d'état in Latveria. United Nation forces led by Colonel Nick Fury were sent in to undo Reed's actions, but it soon became clear that his claim to Latveria was all part of his plan to imprison Doom forever. But when Ben Grimm's body was possessed by Doom's spirit, Richards was forced to fight his teammate. Reed managed to destroy Doom's consciousness, but at a terrible price—the death of his best friend.



Medical research

After the Thing was mortally wounded in the battle at Castle Doom, Mr. Fantastic attempted resuscitation and heart massage for over an hour. Forced to accept their friend's death, the FF said farewell to Ben in a closed casket funeral. However, Reed had signed a contract with the U.S. military that allowed them to study his mutated body in the event of his death. Stealing the Thing's body from the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Richards placed it in a special preservation tank.

Von Doom's machine

Finding a spark of Ben still dwelling within Ben's brain, Reed began to formulate a plan. He believed that Ben's consciousness had transmigrated to another plane of existence—in other words, the Thing had gone to Heaven. Working on the principle that energy cannot be destroyed, only transformed or relocated, saving Ben would be a simple matter of retrieving the energy that formed his consciousness. To do this, Richards planned to use the technique Von Doom had created in his college days to resurrect his dead mother.

FLAMING ASSAULT
In Heaven, the FF teammates were attacked by a flying horde of winged, hooded angels wielding flaming swords in a ruthless battle. Mr. Fantastic, the Invisible Woman and the Human Torch were nearly overcome by the demonic foes. As the FF appeared on the verge of defeat, their attacker disappeared. Richards sensed that the pitched battle was meant only to give them a false sense of security.
NNNGHH!
WRETCH WARNING
Reed explained his hunch to make it clear that the FF were in peril. He asked for the FF's trust, that they were not at home in Heaven. The angels had been sent by them, who was wanted to be Brother Daniel. Daniel had died, but the Brothers had no power in Heaven.
The door to the afterlife
Theorizing that their environment was being shaped by the desires of whoever was in the vicinity, the teammates encountered several different situations. When Reed led the team back to Cross's gigantic puzzle, Sue's mind took them home, while Johnny's reality recreated a childhood camping trip. Finally, the FF found Ben, who had been reunited with his dead brother, Daniel. Ben was not yet in Heaven proper, which lay beyond a metal door. Ben believed Richards was keeping his body alive artificially on Earth, and that Reed had created the door to stop Ben entering the afterlife beyond. However, Ben quickly realized that as he himself had arrived at the door first, it must have been his own mind that created the barrier.
Meeting the maker
When Ben realized his true desire was to return to Earth, he said goodbye to Daniel, invited into Heaven proper to meet God, the FF were amazed to find out that it is "sketched out" reality in the same way as a comic book artist. Redrawing Ben so that he once again resembled the Thing, God then redrew the FF's world, transporting them home.

Ultimate Fantastic Four

IN AN ALTERNATE reality, studious Reed Richards was the victim of bullying, at home, at the hands of his father, and at school. Ben Grimm came to his rescue when a group of boys were forcing Reed's head down a toilet, and, in return, Reed showed Ben his latest scientific finding. Reed had discovered that there was another plane of existence that was very close to our own. He planned to send toys and candy bars to this other dimension to find out if there was life there—just as soon as he could work out how to break the barrier between the two planes.

GRIMM REAPER

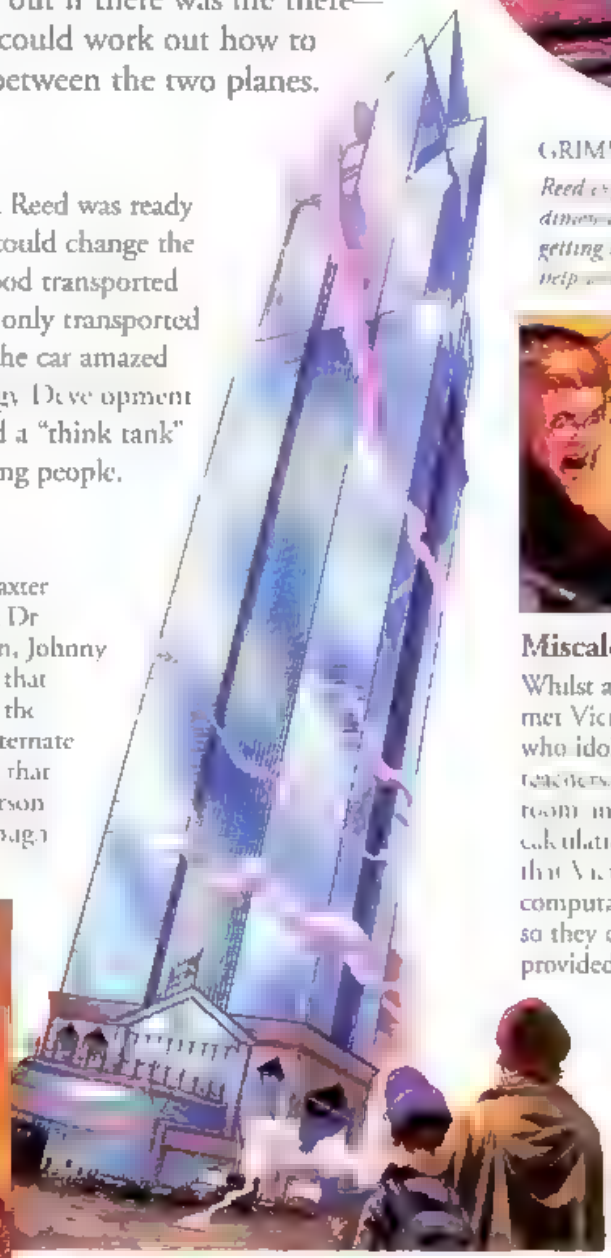
Reed explained his discovery of alternate dimensions to Ben, but Ben had great trouble getting his head around it. He just wanted help with his trigonometry homework!

Talent scout

Six months later at the school science fair, Reed was ready to exhibit his experiment. He believed it could change the world, enabling starving people to have food transported to them instantly. For now, though, Reed only transported a toy car. The dramatic disappearance of the car amazed everyone, especially a Mainland Technology Development scout who recommended that Reed attend a "think tank" of other talented young people.

Baxter Building

Reed was sent to the Baxter Building where he met Dr Storm and his children, Johnny and Sue. He was told that Dr. Storm had found the co-ordinates to the alternate plane or N-Zone, but that Reed was the first person to actually break through the barrier.



Miscalculation

Whilst at the Baxter Building, Reed also met Victor Von Doom. Victor was a loner who idolized Dr. Molekevic, one of the researchers. One day, Reed returned to his room and found Victor working on Reed's calculations. Initially angry, Reed realized that Victor was right about some of the computations. They agreed to call a truce so they could work on the project together, provided Victor promised to be nice!

MOLE MAN

Dr. Molekevic (Mole Man) was fired after it was found that he was working on illegal bio-technology to create bizarre life forms.

When Reed tested his theory, the result was an explosion that scattered the 4 across the room and gave them powers

Water: Mr. Fantastic

Reed was almost shot at by officers when they first saw him, not realizing who he was. The scientist's limbs had elongated as if they were made of water. As the fate of the others came to light, Reed realized that their new forms represented the different elements. He also discovered that this freak accident was caused by someone tampering with the computer and his calculations.

Fire: The Human Torch

Johnny woke up to find himself in a European hospital with the ability to engulf himself in flames with no risk of injury. The Human Torch honed his skill of commanding fire by simply uttering "Flame on!"

Rock: The Thing

Ben was discovered in Mexico City where his increase in physical strength caused trucks to crash when they drove into him. Reed told Ben that his new form was due to a suit that he had to wear to protect the world from the extra impact he was putting on the planet. Ben blamed Reed for this metamorphosis into the Thing.

Ben was found by two children. He had great difficulty accepting his new condition

Doomed

Reed, Ben, and Johnny were engaged in a battle with a monster that led them to Moleman's lair and to Sue. Moleman set his clay creatures on them and, despite Reed's pleas, turned against his students. Reed decided they must excavate Mole Man's den with Victor's help. But Victor was now horribly scarred and only wanted revenge on the newly formed FF.

Air: Invisible Woman

The only person who knew where Sue had gone was Mole Man, who had taken her to his lair beneath the Baxter Building. Sue now had the power of invisibility, which she had trouble controlling. Mole Man showed her his video wall that he used to spy on the group. He told the Invisible Woman of his plans to work with her and Victor to uncover life's mysteries.

Marvel Knights 4

AFTER ALIENATING most of the world for staging a coup d'état in Latveria and being portrayed as traitors in the American press, the Fantastic Four faced a new problem. Reed Richards was forced to sign over the proceeds of all his patents to the government to pay for the expenses incurred by his authoritative actions, and Congress refused to fund any more of his scientific research. To make matters even worse, the value of all of the stocks and bonds in the FF's portfolio had declined because of a weak stock market, and their money manager had swindled them out of all their cash reserves. The Fantastic Four were broke

EVICTED!
Reed's bad finances drove them from the Baxter Building — something their enemies could not do

From the lows to the Heights

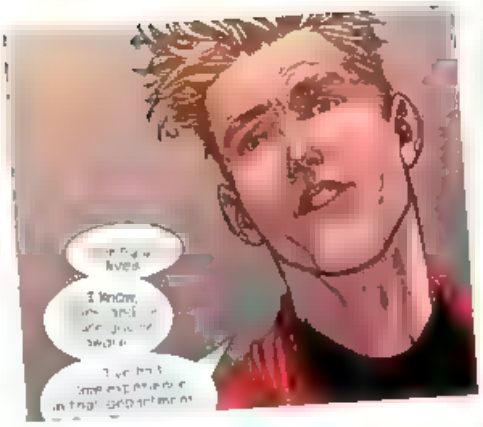
A letter from the mayor told the team that New York City wanted payment for all the damage that the Fantastic Four had "caused" over the years. The mayor offered to forgive the debt if the FF vacated the Baxter Building and turned it over to the city. Forced to lay off all their employees and liquidate their financial assets, the FF held a massive sale to sell most of their possessions. All of the money was given to the families of their former employees. Needing a new place to stay, the Fantastic Four moved into a rundown hotel in Washington Heights

New careers

After refusing to accept loans from the Avengers and Tony Stark, Reed informed the rest of the team that they had to find work. Sue Richards took a job teaching English at a local high school on the Upper West Side. The students proved unruly at first, but she soon won them over. Though he appeared to have trouble adjusting to his new life, Reed took a temporary job as a computer technician. On the way to work one morning, he talked a lonely stranger out of committing suicide. This made Reed realize that at least he still had his family and things were not so bad as they may have seemed.

Demolition man

An expert at smashing things, the Thing applied for work in construction. He was refused at first but was hired when he saved workers from being crushed by falling debris. Ben Grimm's strength was an asset on the construction site, but his fellow workers warned him to take it easy. They feared he would put them out of work by completing the job too soon.

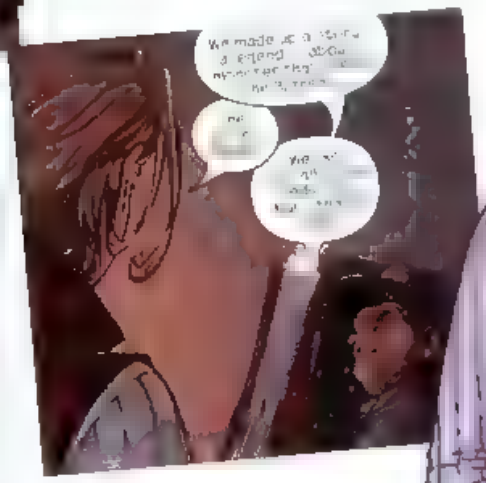


Fighting fire with fire

Johnny Storm approached the local firehouse and asked if he could become an apprentice firefighter. The fire chief warned him that the work was not glamorous. A lot of the time it was just grunt work, but Johnny was determined to get the job. The other firefighters were not happy with their new recruit, blaming him for all the times that they had to clean up messes left behind by the Fantastic Four and the city's other Super Heroes. However, Johnny eventually won their respect when he helped a distraught mother retrieve the body of her son.

The Pine Barrens

Reed, Sue, and Ben took Franklin Richards and a group of his friends on a camping trip to the New Jersey Pine Barrens, an untouched 1,000-square-mile wilderness area. The locals warned Sue to stay away because of a legendary monster, the mysterious Jersey Devil, that was supposed to haunt the region. The Fantastic Four also encountered a pair of filmmakers who were producing a documentary on the creature.



Predators among the pines

When people started to disappear, Sue took charge of defending the children while Reed and Ben searched the area. They stumbled upon a spacecraft that was swarming with an army of vicious-looking aliens. Using his stretching powers to look like one of the creatures, Reed sneaked aboard the ship to rescue the captives. After driving the aliens away, Sue learned that they had been coming to the area for centuries. They had an understanding with the locals and only kidnapped campers and tourists.

Ordinary heroes

Following a fight with Psycho-Man, Reed revealed that he had been using the FF's bankruptcy as a chance for them to be ordinary. Though Reed was pleased at the way everyone had blossomed, Sue convinced him that it was time to reassume their normal lives.

The world of the Fantastic Four

While in Stockholm to attend a scientific symposium, Reed Richards and Ben Grimm first encountered the man known only as Crucible.

Saragossa was the birthplace of Esteban Diablo.

Europe

France—The Fantastic Four prevented an alien invasion when an ancient portal to another dimension was discovered under the streets of Paris.

Suffering from amnesia, Medusa was found by the Wizard on the southern coast of France. He invited her to join the Frightful Four.

Denmark—From his base in Copenhagen, Dr. Doom gathered a misfit army and made plans to destroy the FF.

Germany—Having gained the Silver Surfer's cosmic powers, Dr. Doom battled the FF at the foot of the Alps.

Balkans—The tiny kingdom of Latveria on Hungary's southern border was ruled with an iron fist by Dr. Doom.

Transia, Dragonia is the birthplace of the Puppet Master.

Hungary—The Hungarian government invaded Latveria when the FF appeared to have destroyed Dr. Doom.

Netherlands—Ulysses Klaw was born in Vlaardingen.

Transylvania—The FF accidentally stumbled upon the castle of Diablo, where the alchemist was held prisoner.

Russia—Ivan Kragoff left Russia and exposed himself to cosmic radiation in space to become the Red Ghost.

Egypt

Believing that the ancient Egyptians had a cure for blindness, the FF used Dr. Doom's time machine and journeyed to the ancient land of the pharaohs, where they first encountered Rama-Tut.

Returning to the land of his birth, the Sphinx challenged Galactus to a battle to the death.

Tibet

Victor von Doom learned the secrets of sorcery from a mysterious order of monks. They built him an armored suit and mask to hide his scarred face.

Japan

When a giant robot rampaged through Japan, the FF raced to Mount Fujimoto to confront the Samurai Destroyer.

India

The Sphinx heard of a wizard whose powers rival his own and searched for him in a secret temple hidden deep within the Himalayan Mountains. There he encountered a mystical entity who foretold his destruction at the hands of Galactus.

After their home in the Andes was discovered by the FF, the Inhumans moved Attilan into the Himalayas.

Africa

Ruled by the Black Panther, the kingdom of Wakanda is hidden in the jungles of northern Africa.

The Human Torch and the Thing invaded the small kingdom of Rudyarda when they learned that the Black Panther had been imprisoned as an enemy of the state.

"What gives this family its purpose and its joy isn't the destination... it's the journey."

Hidden somewhere in the Rocky Mountains is the small town of New Salem, populated by modern-day witches. It was once the home of Salem's Seven
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
COLORADO
CALIFORNIA
Los Angeles
NEW MEXICO
TEXAS
FLORIDA
Feeling that he was not being appreciated, the Human Torch temporarily left the team and joined the Bones 'N' Bailey Circus as it traveled through the South.

Arctic
When their powers suddenly began to malfunction, the FF journeyed to the Arctic Circle, where they found an ancient civilization ruled by a blind god.

The FF headed for the northern magnetic pole when they learned that aliens planned to reverse the polarity of the Earth's magnetic field.

United States
California– Launching their experimental starship from Central City, Reed, Sue, Johnny and Ben were exposed to cosmic radiation and became the FF.

After going bankrupt, the FF went to Los Angeles where they made a movie that was funded by Prince Namor, the Sub-Mariner.

New York City—The home and headquarters of the FF.

After suddenly appearing in Central Park, a mysterious structure teleported the FF to a distant galaxy where the Beyonder forced them to fight in a secret war.

New England—Reed and Sue hired Agatha Harkness to be Franklin's nanny and moved him into her home at Whisper Hill.

Florida—The FF temporarily lost their powers after being exposed to the radiation of a bomb triggered by the Frightful Four on a small atoll off the coast of Florida.

New Mexico—When someone began to sabotage his missile base, General Thaddeus E. Ross asked the FF to investigate, and they soon found themselves in a battle with the Incredible Hulk.

South Pacific
While on vacation to a seemingly deserted South Pacific Island, the FF were attacked by the Sentry Sinister, who was left on this planet countless millennia ago by the Kree.

Bermuda Triangle
At the very center of the Bermuda Triangle lies Monster Isle, the home of the Mole Man and his army of giant creatures.

Bermuda Triangle

Central America
After kidnapping Crystal and Lockjaw, Diablo took over a Mayan Pyramid and attempted to overthrow the government of Terra Verde.

Starting a revolution in the tiny country of San Gusto, the Hate Monger's dreams of invading the United States and exposing the entire world to his hate ray were ended by the FF.

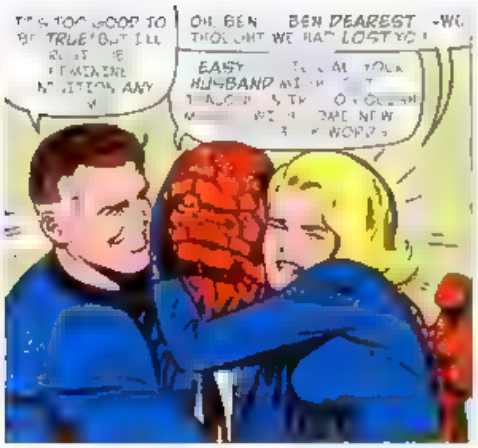
Antarctica
Antarctica was the location of the original undersea home of Atlantis, which was destroyed when an unnamed country tested an atomic weapon in the area.

Northern Atlantic
Hidden beneath the surface was the undersea kingdom of Atlantis, which was ruled by the Sub-Mariner.

The Northern Atlantic was also the location of the original island home of the Inhumans.

SOUTH AMERICA

South America
After living in the Northern Atlantic for thousands of years, climate changes forced the Inhumans to move the Great Refuge to the Andes Mountains.



Gazetteer

COMIC BOOK TITLES

A[illegible] *Vol. 1* (1963—96)
AA[illegible] *Annual*
A[illegible] (1962)
ASM[illegible] *Spider-Man* Vol. 1 (1962—99)
[illegible] 1968–96)
D9[illegible] *Doom 2099* (1993—96)
FF—*Fantastic Four* Vol. 1 (1961—96, 2003—present)
F3—*Fantastic Four* Vol. 3 (1998—2003)
F5—*Fantastic Five* (1999—2000)
F[illegible] *Fantastic Four 2099* (1996)
FFA[illegible]
H1—*The Incredible Hulk* Vol. 1 (1962—3)
HM—*Journey Into Mystery* (195[illegible]—66)
LC—*Luke Cage, Hero For Hire* (1972—3)
MB—*Marvel Boy* (1950—51)
MC—*Marvel Comics* (1939)
MP—*Marvel Premiere* (1972—81)
MPF—*Motion Picture Funnies Weekly* (1939)
MTO—*Marvel Two-In-One* (1[illegible]—83)
NO—*Nova* (1976—9[illegible])
S9—*Spider-Man 2099* (1993—6)
SH—*The Savage She-Hulk* (1980—82)
ST—*Strange Tales* (1951—1968)
SW—*Marvel Super Heroes Secret Wars* (1984—5)
TH—*The Mighty Thor* (1966—96)
TT—*The Thing* (1983—6)
UXM—*The Uncanny X-Men* (1963—present)
W2—*What If* Vol. 2 (1989—98)

CHARACTER	FIRST APPEARANCE
Abraxas	F3 #46
Air-Walker (Gabriel Lan)	FF #120
Alpha Flight	UXM[illegible]
Annihilus	F[illegible]
Ant-Man (Scott Lang)	MP[illegible]
Arkon	A[illegible]
Aron	H[illegible]
Awesome Android	H[illegible]
Baker, William (Sandman)	ASM[illegible]
Banner, Dr. Robert Bruce (Hulk)	H[illegible]
Baxter, Noah	F3 #36
Beach, Morris (Hydro-Man)	ASM[illegible]
Beyonder (aka Kosmos)	SW[illegible]
Big Brain	W2 #[illegible]
Black Bolt	F[illegible]
Black Panther (T'Challa)	FF #53
Blastaar	FF #62
Brutacus	H[illegible]
Brute (alternate version of Reed Richards)	H[illegible]
Cage, Luke (Power Man)	LC #1
Caledonia (Alysande Stuart)	F3 #9
Chimera	F9 #3
Crucible	F3 #3
Crusader (aka Marvel Boy; Robert Grayson)	MB #1 (historical) H[illegible] (modern)
Crystal	H[illegible]
Darkoth (Desmond Pitt	H[illegible]
De'Lila	H[illegible]
Devlor	H[illegible]
Devos the Devastator	H[illegible]
Diablo, Esteban Corazon Del	FF #30
Dillon, Max (Electro)	ASM #9
Doctor Doom (Victor Von Doom)	F[illegible]
Doom 2099	D9 #1
Dragon Man	FF #35
Duval, Paul (Grey Gargoyle)	JIM #107
Ego, the Living Planet	H[illegible]
Electro (Max Dillon)	ASM[illegible]
Fantastic Five	W2 #105
Fantastic Force	F[illegible]
Fasaud (Sheikh Farouk al-Fasaud)	F[illegible]
Frightful Four	F[illegible]
Galactus (Galan)	FF[illegible]
Galan (Galactus)	F[illegible]
Gazelle	H[illegible]
Gilbert, Prof. Gregson	A[illegible]
Gladiator	UXM #107
Gorgon	FF #41
Grayson, Robert (Crusader/Marvel Boy)	MC #1 (historical) FF #164 (modern)
Grey Gargoyle (Paul Duval)	JIM[illegible]
Grim (Jacob Grimm)	F5 #5
Grimm, Alyce (Rad)	F[illegible]
Grimm, Ben (Thing)	F[illegible]
Grimm, Jacob (Grim)	F[illegible]
Grimm, Jake	F[illegible]
Grimm, Petunia	H[illegible]
Grom (Overmind)	H[illegible]
Harkness, Agatha	F[illegible]
Hate Monger (original)	FF #21
Hate Monger	FF #280
HERBIE the Robot	FF #200
Hidden Ones	F3 #38
HIM (Adam Warlock)	T[illegible]
Hulk (Dr. Robert Bruce Banner)	H[illegible]
Human Torch (original)	MC #1 (historical) FF #164 (modern)
Human Torch (Johnny Storm)	FF #1
Huntara	FF #377
Hydro-Man (Morris Beach)	ASM #212
Hydron	FF #186
Igor the Baboon	H[illegible]
Immortus	A1 #10
Impossible Children	MTO #86
Impossible Man	FF #12
Impossible Woman	MTO #60
Invincible Man (aka Super-Skrull)	FF #32
Invisible Woman (aka Invisible Girl; Susan Richards)	FF #1
Kang	A[illegible]
Karnak	H[illegible]
Klaw, Ulysses	H[illegible]
Kosmos (aka Beyonder)	SW[illegible]
Kragoff, Ivan (Red Ghost)	F[illegible]
Kree	F[illegible]
Lady Dorma	FFA[illegible]
Lan, Gabriel (Air-Walker)	H[illegible]
Lang, Scott (Ant-Man)	A[illegible]
Lockjaw	H[illegible]
Lumpkin, Wilhemina	F[illegible]
Lumpkin, Willie	F[illegible]
Lyja	F[illegible] as herself) F[illegible] as Alyx

MacPherran, Mary "Skeeter" (Titania) SW #3
Mad Thinker FF #15
Mahkizmo, FF #151
Malice FF #280
Marvel Boy (aka Crusader; Robert Grayson) MC #1 (historical) FF #164 (modern)
Marvel Girl (Valeria Von Doom; Valeria Richards) F3 #15
Marvel Man (aka Quasar; Wendell Vaughn) CA #217
Masters, Alicia FF #8
Masters, Philip (Puppet Master) FF #8
Maximus FF #47
McKenzie, Leonard MPF #1 (historical) FFA #1 (modern)
Medusa FF #36
Mikhlo the Gorilla FF #13
Miracle Man #3
Modulus F3 #2
Molecule Man (Owen Reece) FF #20
Moleman FF #1
Moy, Alyssa S #5
Mr. Fantastic (Reed Richards) FF #1
Ms. Marvel (aka She-Thing; Sharon Ventura) TT #35

Namor (Sub-Mariner) MPF #1 (historical) FF #4 (modern)
Nova (Frankie Raye) FF #244

Occulus FF #363
O'Hara, Miguel (Spider-Man 2099) S9 #1
Overmind (Grom) FF #113

Paibok FF #358
Parker, May "Mayday" (Spider-Girl) W2 #105
Parker, Peter (Spider-Man) AF #15
Paste Pot Peter (Peter Petruski; Trapster) ST #104
Pootor the Orangutan FF #23
Petruski, Peter (Paste Pot Pete; Trapster) ST #104
Phoenix (Rachel Summers) UXM #141
Pitt, Desmond (Darkoth) FF #142
Power Man (Luke Cage) IC #1
Princess Fen MPF #1 (historical) FFA #1 (modern)
Psycho-Man FFA #5
Puppet Master (Philip Masters) FF #8

Quasar (aka Marvel Man; Wendell Vaughn) CA #217
Quasimodo FFA #4

Rad (Alyce Grimm) F5 #5
Radd, Norrin (Silver Surfer) FF #48
Rama-Tut FF #19
Raye, Frankie (Nova) FF #164
Red Ghost (Ivan Kragoff) FF #83
Reece, Owen (Molecule Man) FF #20
Reptilla FF #186
Richards, Franklin FFA #6
Richards, Nathaniel FF #272
Richards, Reed (Mr. Fantastic) FF #1
Richards, Susan (Susan Storm; Invisible Woman; aka Invisible Girl) FF #1
Richards, Valeria (aka Marvel Girl; Valeria Von Doom) F3 #54
Ronan The Accuser FF #65
Rosenberg, Marsha (Volcana) SW #3

Salem's Seven FF #186
Sandman (William Baker) ASM #4
Scarlet Centurion AA #2
Scratch, Nicholas FF #186
Senso F3 #38
Sentry Sinister FF #64
She-Hulk (Jennifer Walters) SH #1
Sheik Farouk al-Fasaud (Fasaud) FF #308
She-Thing (aka Ms. Marvel; Sharon Ventura) FF #310
Silver Surfer (Norrin Radd) FF #48
Skrulls FF #2
Sphinx NO #6
Spider-Girl (May "Mayday" Parker) W2 #105
Spider-Man (Peter Parker) AF #15
Spider-Man 2099 (Miguel O'Hara) S9 #1
Storm, Franklin FF #31
Storm, Johnny (Human Torch) FF #1
Storm, Mary FF #31
Storm, Susan (Susan Richards) FF #1
Storm, Torus (Super-Storm) F5 #2
Stuart, Alysande (Caledonia) F3 #9

Sub-Mariner (Namor) MPF #1 (historical) FF #4 (modern)
Summers, Rachel (Phoenix) UXM #141
Super-Skrull (aka Invincible Man) FF #18
Super-Storm (Torus Storm) F5 #2
Supreme Intelligence FF #64

T'Chaka FF #53
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Thing (Ben Grimm) FF #1
Thorna FF #186
Thundra FF #129
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Triton FF #45
Tyros (Terrax) FF #211

Uatu, the Watcher FF #13

Vakume FF #186
Vaughn, Wendell (Quasar; Marvel Man) CA #217
Ventura, Sharon (Ms. Marvel; She-Thing) TT #35
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Volcana (Marsha Rosenberg) SW #3
Von Doom, Valeria (Marvel Girl; Valeria Richards) F3 #15
Von Doom, Victor (Doctor Doom) FF #5
Von Doom, Werner FFA #2

Walters, Jennifer (She-Hulk) SH #1
Warlock, Adam (HIM) FF #66
Wingfoot, Wyatt FF #50
Wizard ST #102

Afterword

It all comes down to family. If *Spider-Man* is a series that is rooted in responsibility, the *Fantastic Four* is all about family. A simple, average, all-American family that has breakfast together every morning but heads off to a hard day of challenging the unknown, saving the Earth, and fighting super-menaces. Okay, maybe this particular family doesn't always get along. Maybe Reed can be a tad patronizing. Maybe Ben and Johnny's squabbling does get out of hand. Hey, as the eldest of seven siblings, I can testify that families don't always get along. They bicker and storm off. They mooch off you during the holidays and borrow money they never intend to repay. There are times you really hate them and times you wouldn't survive without them. And all of that is mirrored in the Fantastic Four. Month after month, year after year, the FF shows us that nothing can beat a strong family. It will always find a way to survive. It just has to stick together.

I owe my career to those early issues of the *Fantastic Four*. If they hadn't sparked my imagination and rekindled my love of comics, I might have taken a different path and missed a lot fun.

Whenever I think of the *Fantastic Four*, Stan Lee and Jack Kirby immediately spring to mind. They created the characters and built the playground for the rest of us to enjoy. I salute all the many gifted writers, artists, and editors I have had the privilege to work with on the *Fantastic Four* over the years. You all belong to a special brotherhood and deserve a big *HOO-HA*!

The time has also come to thank Lindsay Fernandes, Laura Gilbert, Neil Kelly, and Alastair Dougall. They jumped in at the last moment to help me when a personal tragedy rendered me incapable of meeting my deadlines. This book would not exist without these people and I will always be in their debt for their work, their kindness, and their understanding. I am also grateful to Lisa Lanzarini and Nick Avery, who designed this book and kept taking my breath away with each exciting new layout.

While the original comics were my actual source material, I also relied rather heavily on the work of people like Mark Gruenwald, Peter Sanderson, Eliot Brown, Howard Mackie, Mark Bernardo, Bob Budiansky, Tom Brevoort, Eric Fein, and all the others who contributed to *The Official Handbook Of The Marvel Universe* (all three editions). The Internet has also become an amazing source of information. Fans of the FF will enjoy a visit to www.FFPlaza.com, The Fantastic Four Fluxion at www.shrublands.com/fluxion or the FF message board at www.comicboards.com.

Anyone interested in the FF should also look in on the current monthly comic books—*Fantastic Four*, *Marvel Knights 4*, *Ultimate Fantastic Four*, and any of the many limited series devoted to the team. The FF's earlier adventures have been reprinted in a variety of formats, from the *Marvel Masterworks* to the more economical *Essential* editions and dozens of trade paperbacks.

This book is dedicated to the memory of my beloved Patricia E., whose love, courage, and unflagging support propped me up for more than 35 years and still keeps me on track. I must also acknowledge Jimmy, Samantha, Bernie, Eddy, Tommy, Danielle, Christopher, Allison, Stephen, Meredith, Alexa, Andrew, Gerald, Carolyn, and the miracle we'll meet this May. They still give their grouchy old uncle a reason to remain a storyteller.

I would also like to express my gratitude to you, my reader, for just being there!

HOO-HA!

Tom D.

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Fantastic Four

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE

Enter the unique world of the Fantastic Four!

Exposed to intense radioactive rays during a voyage into space, four friends—Reed Richards, Ben Grimm, Sue Storm, and Sue's brother Johnny—would never be the same again. Each member of the ill-fated crew was genetically altered by the rays and developed unique superhuman powers. Armed with new identities—Mr. Fantastic, The Thing, the Invisible Woman, and the Human Torch—they formed the Fantastic Four, a phenomenal team dedicated to the advancement of mankind. In this definitive guide to the Fantastic Four, you'll discover everything you need to know about the history, the adventures, the trials, and the tribulations of this incredible team.

BUT THEN...
WHAT HAPPENED, DARLING?
I DON'T KNOW! IT--IT FADED AWAY... AFTER JUST A FEW SECONDS!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, KIDDIES! THERE'S NOTHIN' THEY CAN THROW AT US THAT A LITTLE BIT OF MUSCLE WON'T TAKE CARE OF! MY MUSCLE, THAT IS!
WHILE YOU'RE FLEXING, BIG MOUTH, I'LL START FLYING! HERE THEY COME!
FLAME ON!
OUR EARTHLING ENEMIES!! DESTROY THEM!!

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